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DEEPSEEK

FUELING THE INDUSTRY

THE CHINESE AI COMPANY UPENDING THE STOCK MARKET

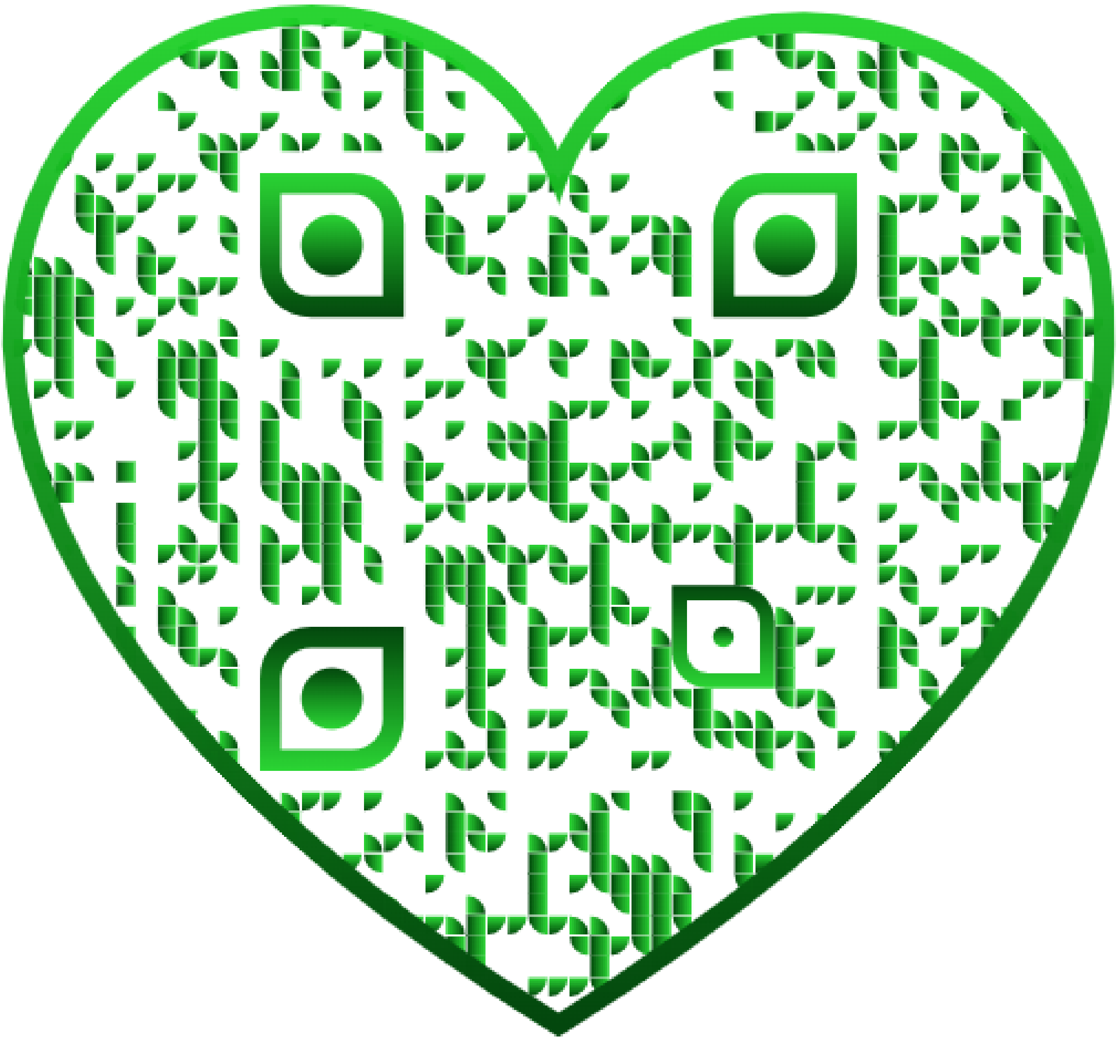
NVIDIA'S TUMBLE

MARKET DARLING

RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT WALL STREET EXPECTATIONS

Model Y

THE NEW VERSION OF THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING CAR



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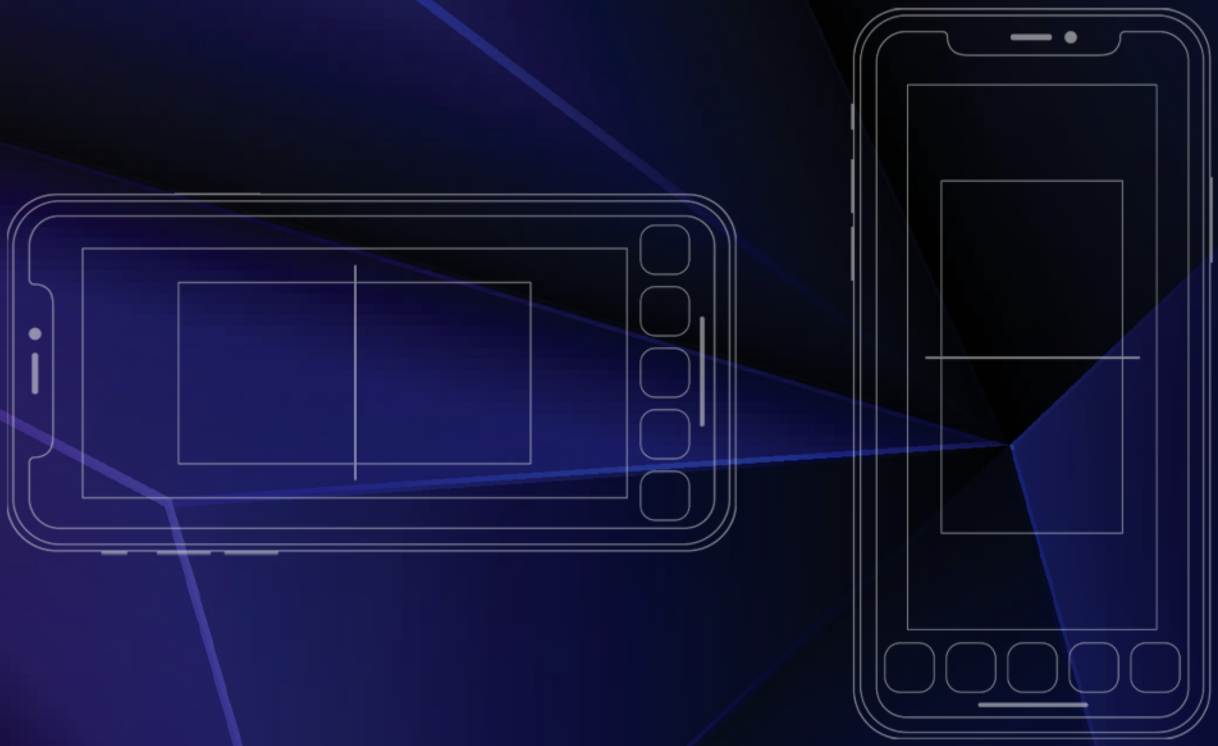

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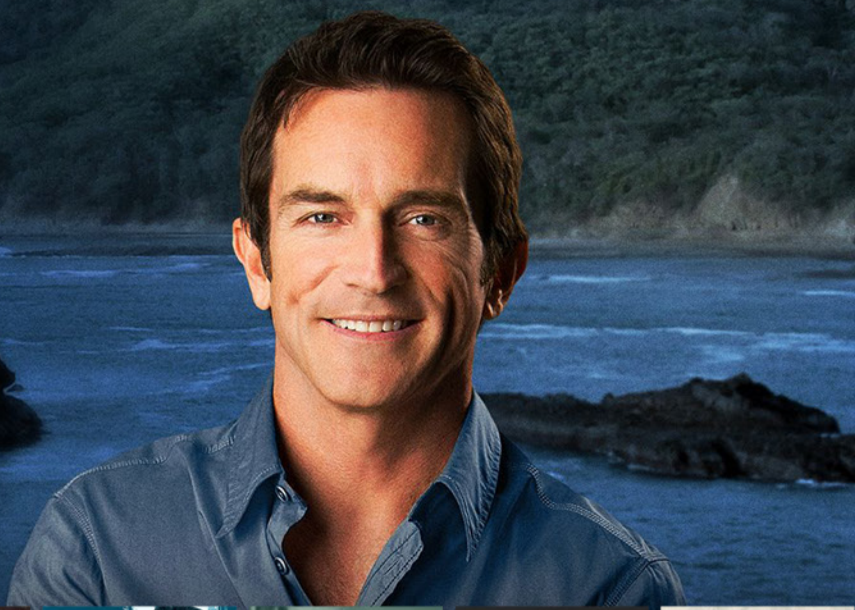

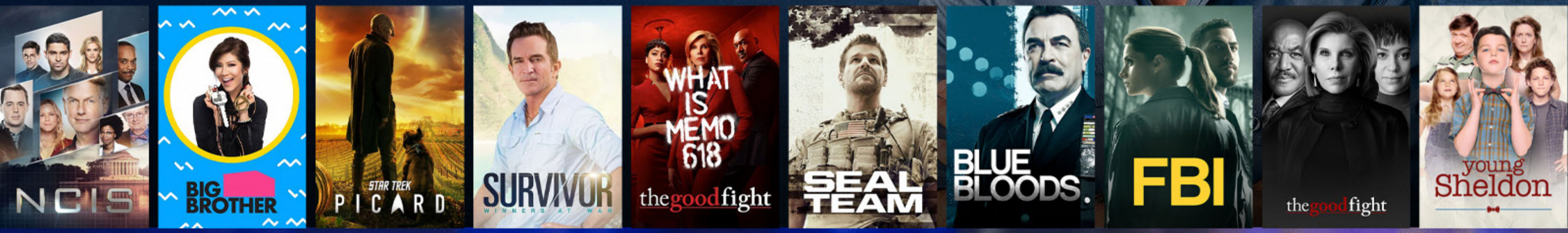
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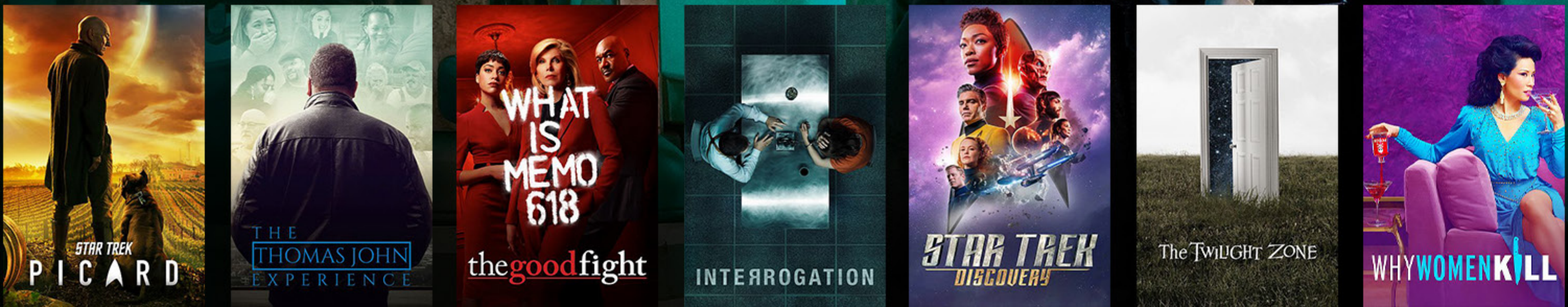
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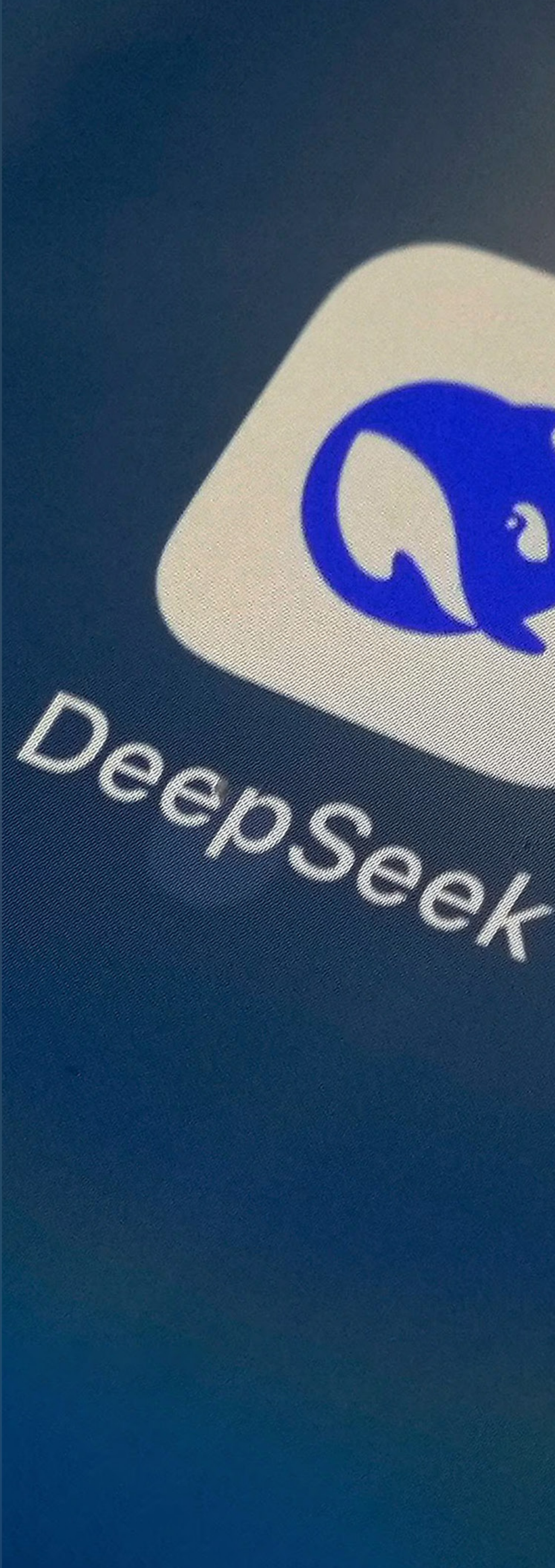
WHAT IS DEEPSEEK, THE CHINESE AI COMPANY UPENDING THE STOCK MARKET?



A frenzy over an artificial intelligence chatbot made by Chinese tech startup DeepSeek was upending stock markets Monday and fueling debates over the economic and geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China in developing AI technology.

DeepSeek's AI assistant became the No. 1 downloaded free app on Apple's iPhone store Monday, propelled by curiosity about the ChatGPT competitor. Part of what's worrying some U.S. tech industry observers is the idea that the Chinese startup has caught up with the American companies at the forefront of generative AI at a fraction of the cost.

5G
ChatGPT

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THE CHINA TAKE ON DEEPSE
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That, if true, calls into question the huge amounts of money U.S. tech companies say they plan to spend on the data centers and computer chips needed to power further AI advancements.

But hype and misconceptions about DeepSeek's technological advancements also sowed confusion.

"The models they built are fantastic, but they aren't miracles either," said Bernstein analyst Stacy Rasgon, who follows the semiconductor industry and was one of several stock analysts describing Wall Street's reaction as overblown.

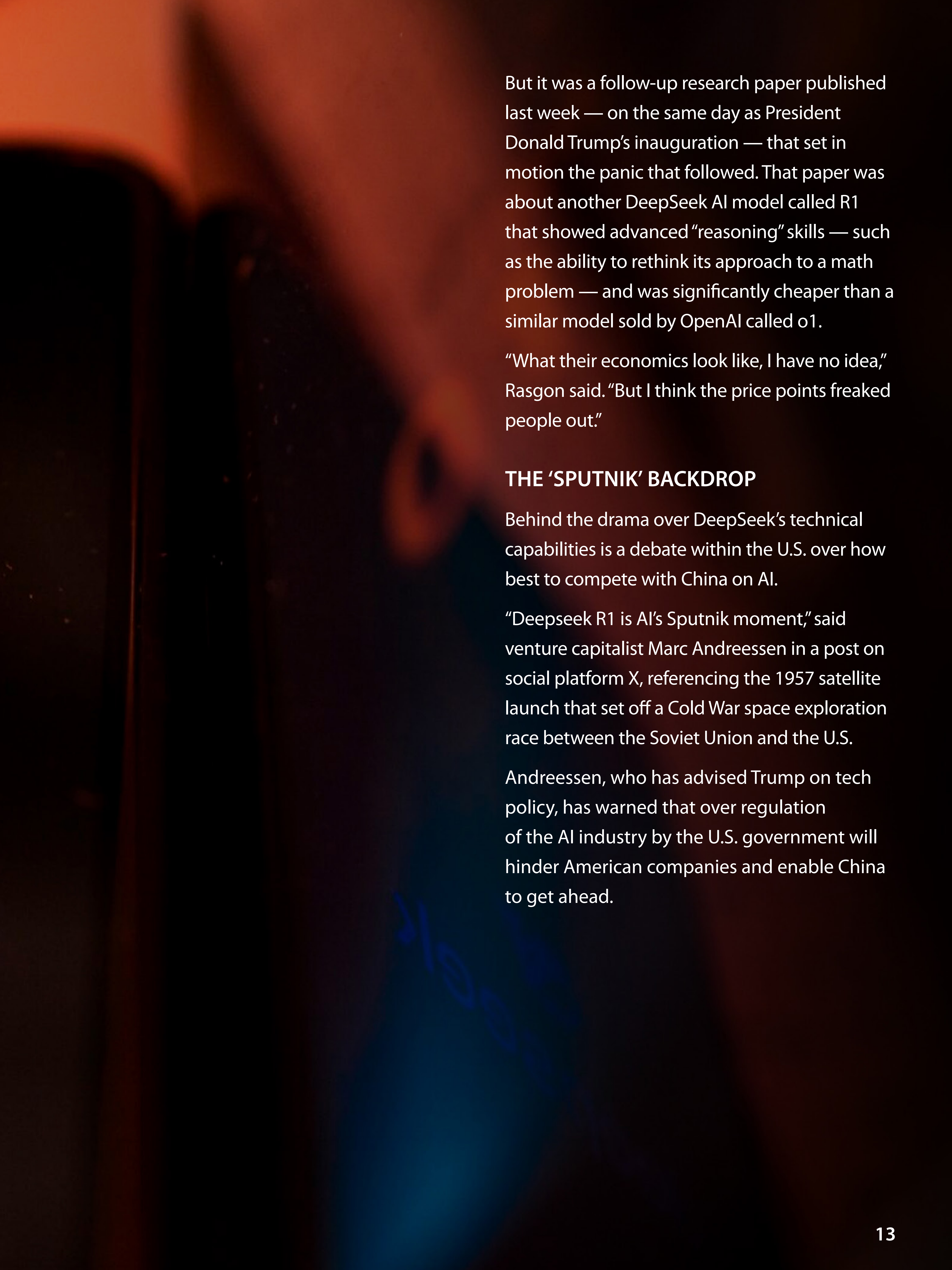
"They're not using any innovations that are unknown or secret or anything like that," Rasgon said. "These are things that everybody's experimenting with."

WHAT IS DEEPSEEK?

The startup DeepSeek was founded in 2023 in Hangzhou, China and released its first AI large language model later that year. Its CEO Liang Wenfeng previously co-founded one of China's top hedge funds, High-Flyer, which focuses on AI-driven quantitative trading.

DeepSeek began attracting more attention in the AI industry last month when it released a new AI model that it boasted was on par with similar models from U.S. companies such as ChatGPT maker OpenAI, and was more cost-effective in its use of expensive Nvidia chips to train the system on huge troves of data. The chatbot became more widely accessible when it appeared on Apple and Google app stores early this year.

Image: Lam Yik



But it was a follow-up research paper published last week — on the same day as President Donald Trump's inauguration — that set in motion the panic that followed. That paper was about another DeepSeek AI model called R1 that showed advanced "reasoning" skills — such as the ability to rethink its approach to a math problem — and was significantly cheaper than a similar model sold by OpenAI called o1.

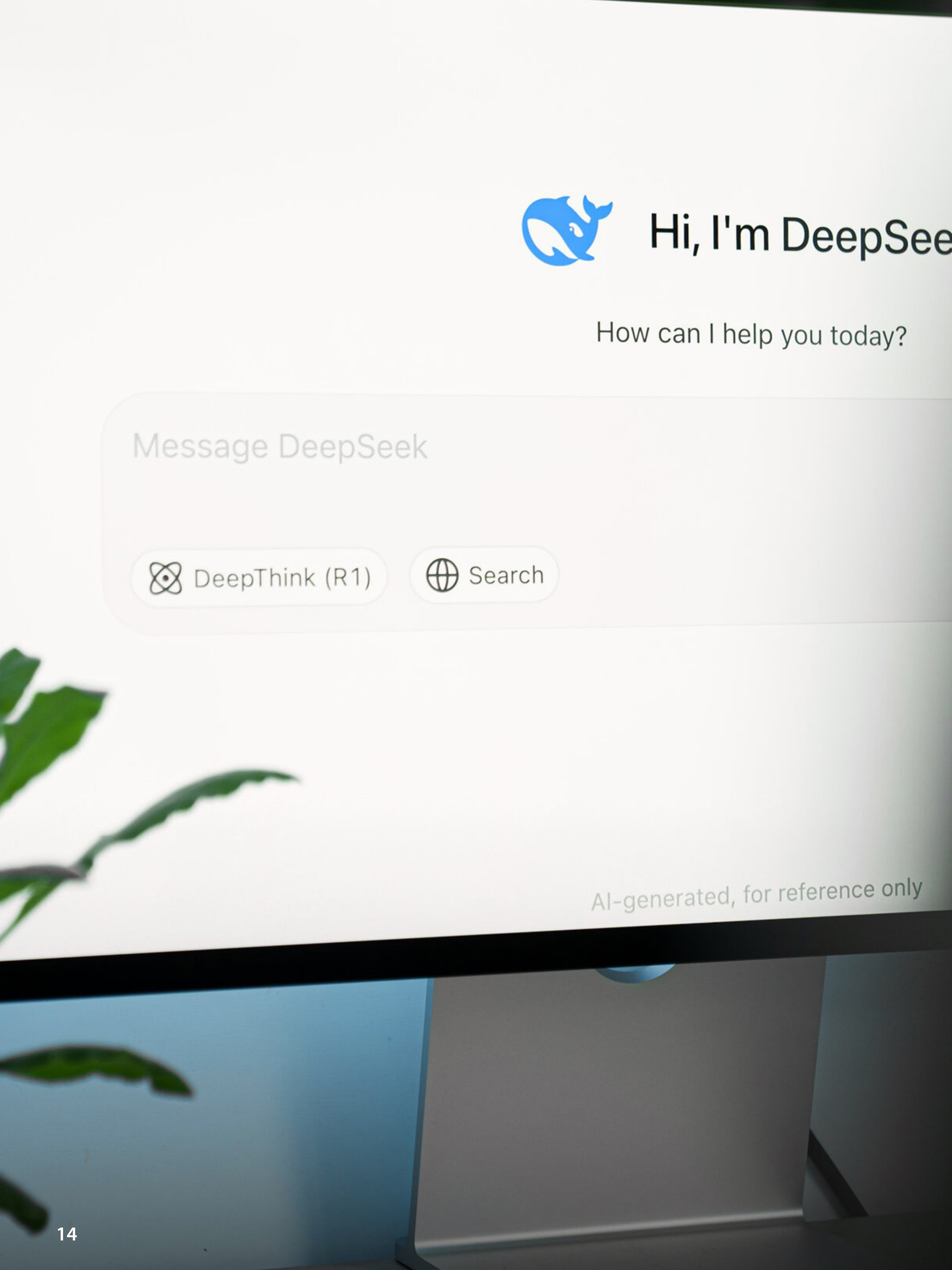
"What their economics look like, I have no idea," Rasgon said. "But I think the price points freaked people out."

THE 'SPUTNIK' BACKDROP

Behind the drama over DeepSeek's technical capabilities is a debate within the U.S. over how best to compete with China on AI.

"Deepseek R1 is AI's Sputnik moment," said venture capitalist Marc Andreessen in a post on social platform X, referencing the 1957 satellite launch that set off a Cold War space exploration race between the Soviet Union and the U.S.

Andreessen, who has advised Trump on tech policy, has warned that over regulation of the AI industry by the U.S. government will hinder American companies and enable China to get ahead.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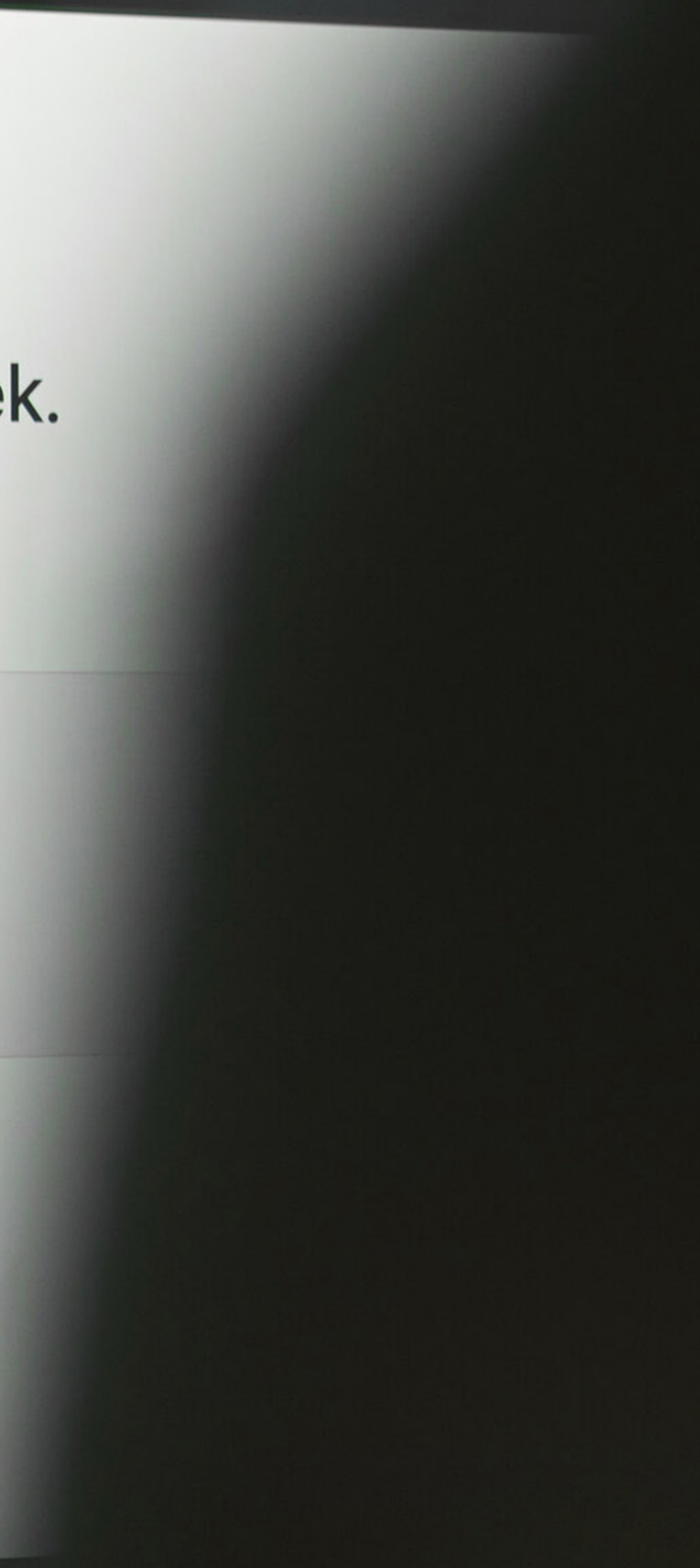

But the attention on DeepSeek also threatens to undermine a key strategy of U.S. foreign policy in recent years to restrict the sale of American-designed AI semiconductors to China. Some experts on U.S.-China relations don't think that is an accident.

"The technology innovation is real, but the timing of the release is political in nature," said Gregory Allen, director of the Wadhwani AI Center at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Allen compared DeepSeek's announcement last week to U.S.-sanctioned Chinese company Huawei's release of a new phone during diplomatic discussions over Biden administration export controls in 2023.

"Trying to show that the export controls are futile or counterproductive is a really important goal of Chinese foreign policy right now," Allen said.

Trump signed an order on his first day in office last week that said his administration would "identify and eliminate loopholes in existing export controls," signaling that he is likely to continue and harden Biden's approach.

Image: Lam Yik

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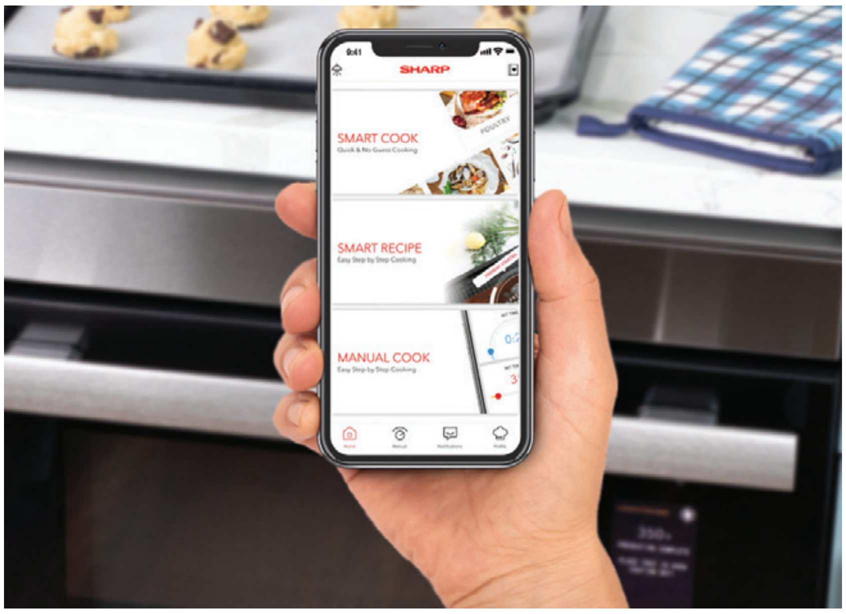

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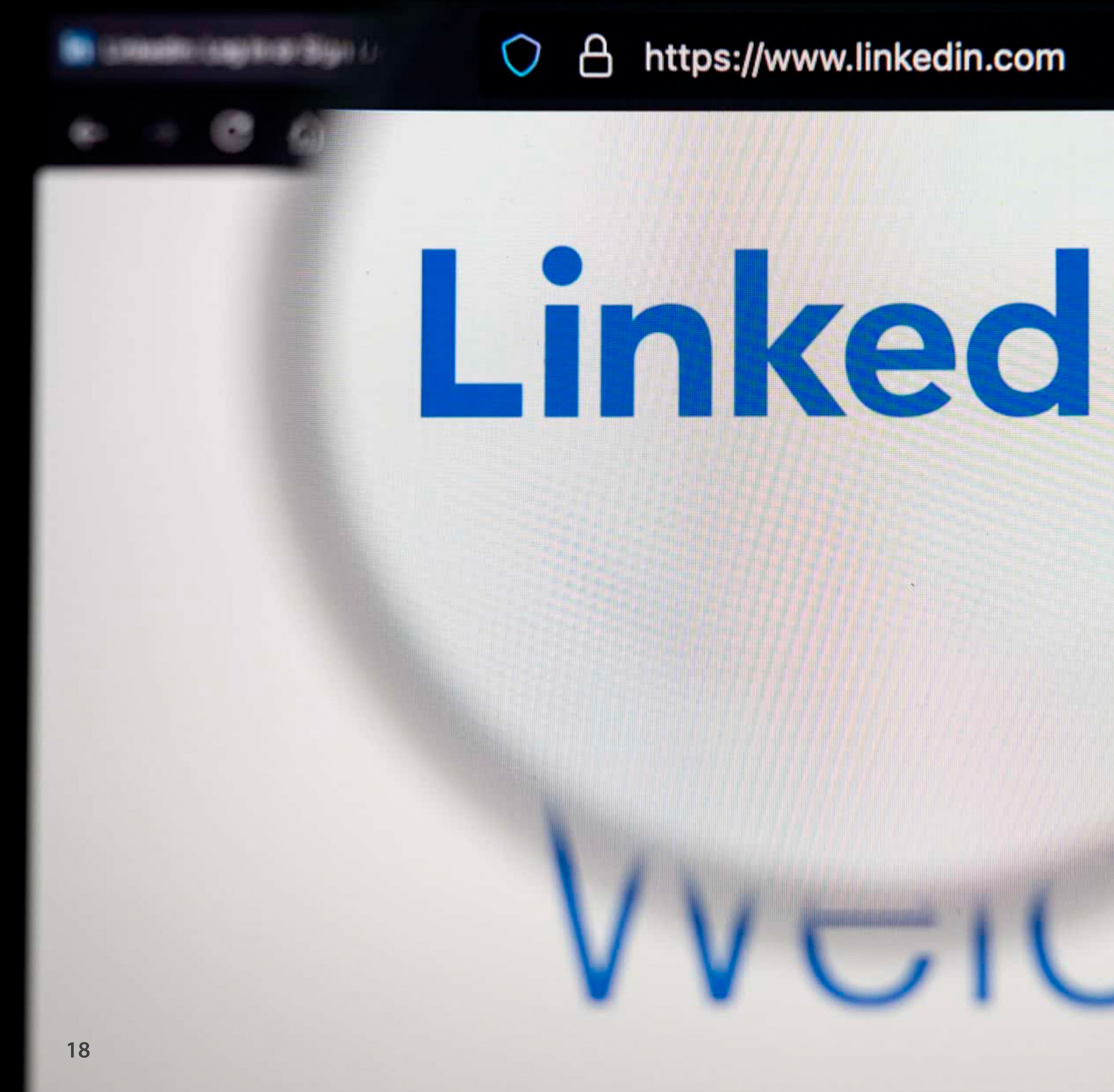
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LINKEDIN FOUNDER REID HOFFMAN SEES BRIGHT AI FUTURE AND HOPES HIS TECH PEERS ARE RIGHT ABOUT TRUMP

LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman has been immersed in Silicon Valley since his August 1967 birth in Palo Alto, California, in the shadow of Stanford University, where he and fellow technology luminary Peter Thiel became friends as college students during the 1980s.

They went on to start PayPal during the late 1990s while working alongside a coterie of other bright-eyed entrepreneurs who went on to even bigger things, just as Hoffman did. That group — dubbed the "PayPal Mafia" —

included Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Yelp CEO Jeremy Stoppelman, and YouTube co-founders Chad Hurley and Steve Chen.

Now worth an estimated $2.6 billion, Hoffman has been at the forefront of the artificial intelligence craze while investing in trailblazing startups such as ChatGPT maker OpenAI and Inflection. Unlike other prominent technologists who are worried about AI destroying humanity, Hoffman has co-written a new book called "Superagency" that makes an optimistic case for AI.

ARE HUMANS CREATING SOMETHING SMARTER THAN THEMSELVES WITH AI?

You already have some version of superintelligence right now. Obviously, we will be increasing that superintelligence, so we need to be thinking about which ways it's going to be making great additions and which ways it's going to make things more challenging.

Humans are generally bad at transitions, and that is part of the reason for writing books like "Superagency," to try to say there are some positive design principles, some positive outcomes that we should be trying to work our way toward.

DO YOU THINK THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THESE SUPERINTELLIGENT AI AGENTS EVENTUALLY MAY SEEM OMNISCIENT?

AI agents are pretty useful for coaching and advising. Like if you were to say, "Hey, how should I approach this thorny problem?" An AI agent can be a pretty good advice-giving coach.

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Reid
Hoffman

Image: Drew Angerer

And so you can imagine it being a useful tutor across a wide variety of subjects, including even spiritual or counseling or mental ones. And I think that could be positive for the evolution of humanity, having something talking to us that is infinitely patient and is trying to help us get to our better selves. So, yes, you could have a "Consult the Oracle" situation with AI agents.

WHAT'S THE RISK OF SOME PEOPLE EMBRACING AI AS A BOSOM BUDDY AND BECOMING MORE SOCIALLY ISOLATED?

Some of that will happen for sure, the same way some people isolated themselves with TV or the internet. Part of this will be about the design focus. If you go to Inflection's AI agent, Pi, and say, "Hey you're my best friend," Pi, will say, "No, I am your AI companion, let's talk about your friendships. Have you seen any of your friends recently or want to see them?" We want AI agents being softly and gently encouraging, to be tied into the human circumstance, which I think is what most people really want.

ON THE FLIP SIDE, AS THESE AI AGENTS BECOME MORE HUMAN-LIKE, COULD THAT GET PEOPLE MORE IN TOUCH WITH THEIR OWN HUMANITY?

Our humanity is expressed in how we incorporate technology in our lives, just as we are communicating through Zoom for this interview. I think that is part of our humanity.

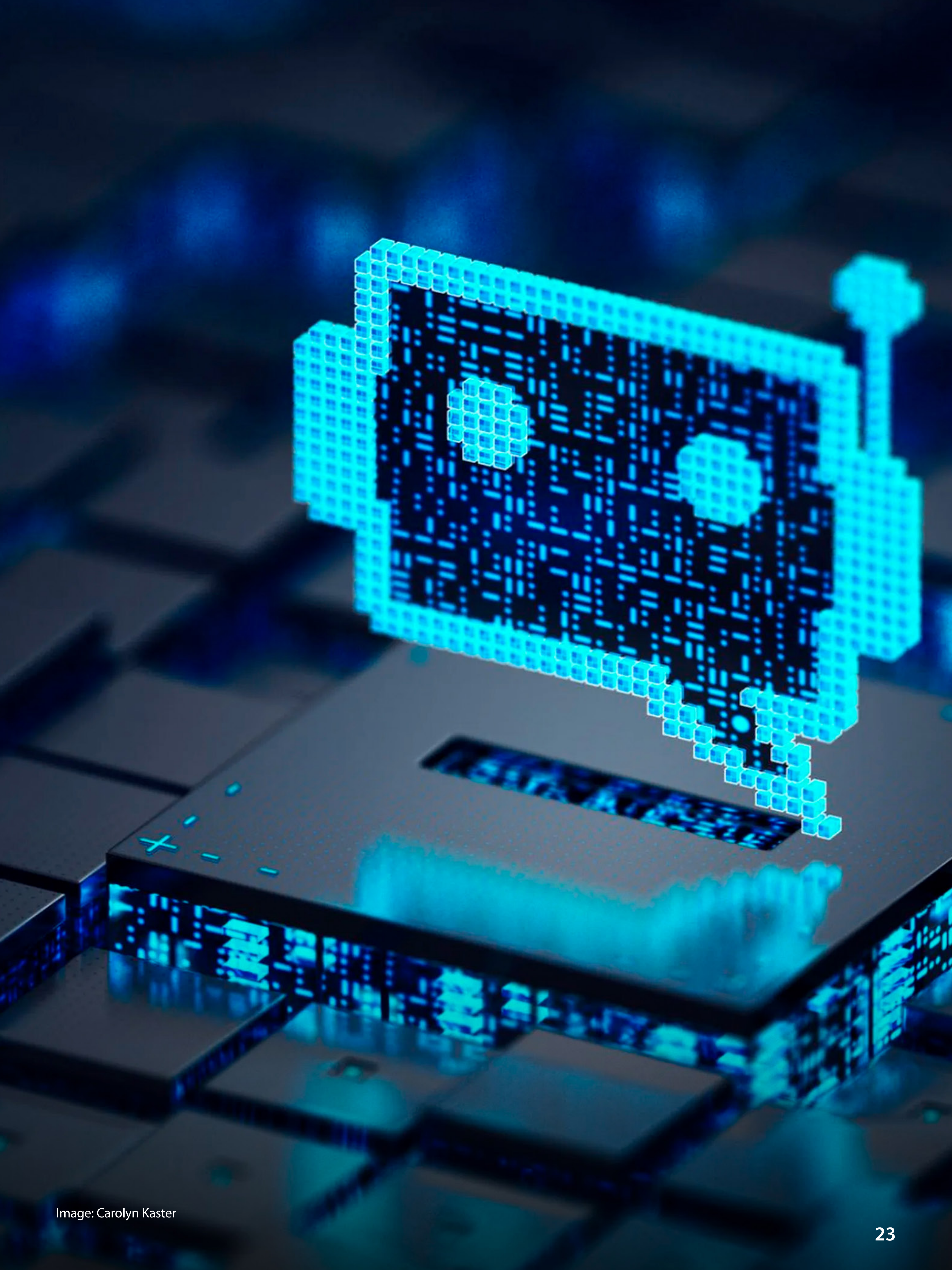


Image: Carolyn Kaster

SWITCHING TOPICS, ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT PRESIDENT TRUMP RETALIATING AGAINST YOU FOR BEING ONE OF KAMALA HARRIS' BIGGEST SUPPORTERS IN SILICON VALLEY LEADING UP TO LAST YEAR'S ELECTION?

2024 obviously was a very intense year and what I am trying not to do is speculate too much about that because in 2025 I am going to really focus on how I build and fund really interesting AI companies and other areas that help build industries that make a difference. My obvious hope is that the incoming administration will turn to a positive agenda. I kind of feel at this point that speculation is not really helpful. We will see in a couple of months how it's all going to play out.

WERE YOU SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH SUPPORT PRESIDENT TRUMP GOT FROM OTHER TECHNOLOGY BILLIONAIRES LIKE ELON MUSK AND MARC ANDREESSEN?

It wasn't surprising that the people who were very intensely pro-cryptocurrency were pro-Trump because the Biden administration was so negative on crypto. Also the fact that the Biden administration — unlike the Obama administration — was not putting in a lot of energy into saying, "Hey we think that new technology and new technology companies of the future are really important." And I think a bunch of the Biden administration staff was somewhat negative on large, tech companies.

ked in ®

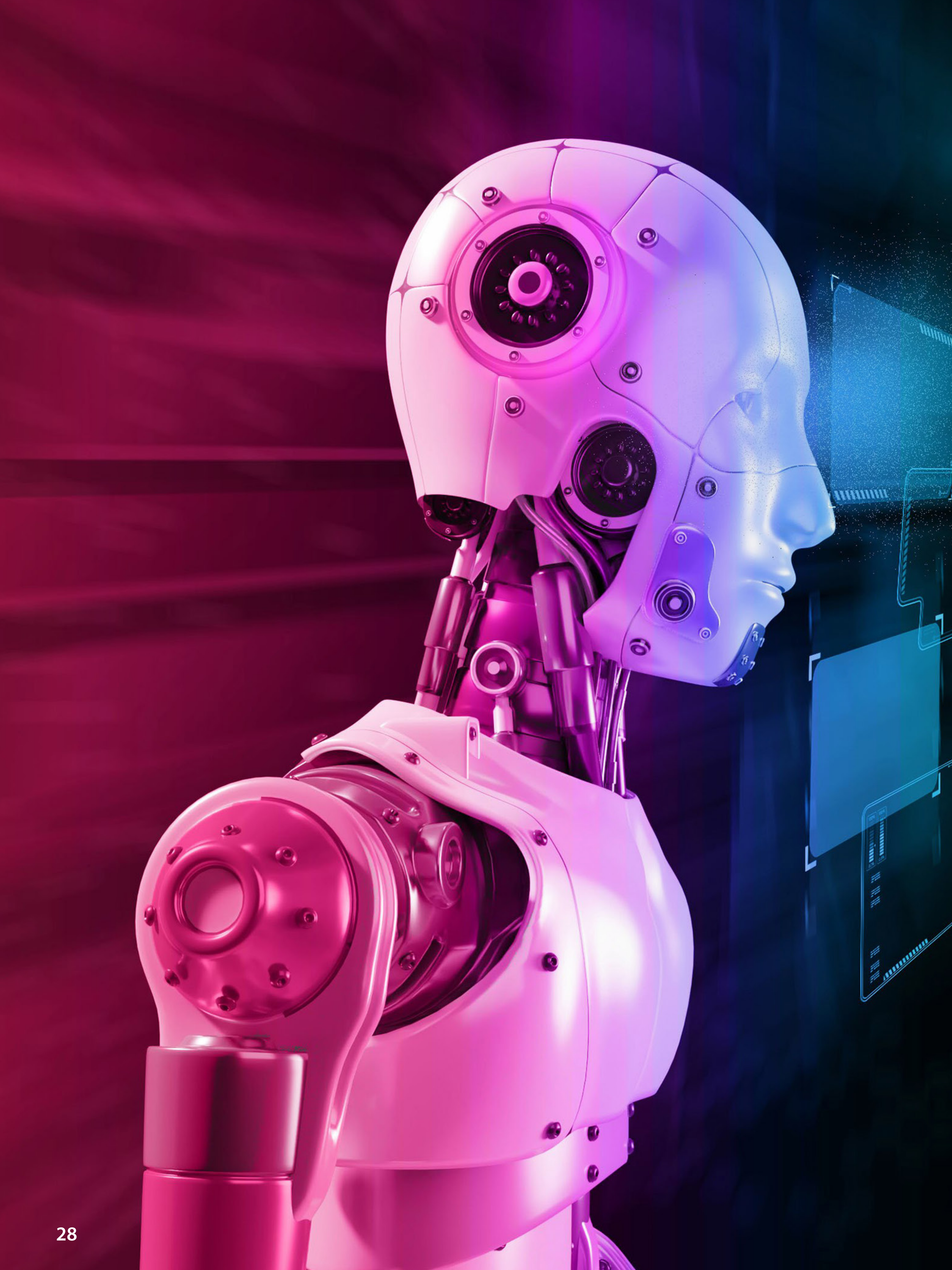
What did surprise me — and now I am very much hoping they are right — is that they thought the Trump administration would be very strongly and thoughtfully pro business across the arena. Let's see what happens with tariffs, let's hope that it doesn't play out in a particularly challenging way.

DO YOU THINK YOUR OLD PAYPAL COLLEAGUES PETER THIEL AND ELON MUSK ARE PLAYING A FORM OF POLITICAL CHESS?

The thing that is so important about Silicon Valley is the broadly held belief — even if it's manifested differently in Peter versus me or other people, — is that the creation of new technology companies is how progress is made. And I think it's an important mission for the country and the world as well as Silicon Valley. The degree to which they are playing chess around that, I don't know. But I think they are driven on that mission and part of what they are doing is trying to make sure that mission is fully realized in the Trump administration.

DO YOU AGREE WITH TRUMP'S SUPPORTERS IN SILICON VALLEY THAT IT'S TIME TO EASE UP ON THE RIGOROUS REGULATION OF TECH THAT WE HAD DURING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ADMINISTRATION?

I do. I hope there will be much more enablement of technology innovation.



GOING BACK TO YOUR BOOK, WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT AI PIONEERS LIKE NOBEL PRIZE WINNER GEOFFREY HINTON WHO NOW SEE THE TECHNOLOGY AS A THREAT TO HUMANITY?

I tend to rate a lot of risks based on how does it compare to my risk to driving to the airport because every time you get in a car and drive to the airport, the highest risk of the journey is on the drive and not on the plane. If the risk is in the automobile-level of percentage, then I don't worry about it that much. And, if you say, "Well this is much bigger, this could be an existential human risk." Then I say, "Well, yeah, that's part of the reason you put more energy into being protective in navigating and steering it."

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BIG TECH WANTS TO PLUG DATA CENTERS RIGHT INTO POWER PLANTS. UTILITIES SAY IT'S NOT FAIR

Looking for a quick fix for their fast-growing electricity diets, tech giants are increasingly looking to strike deals with power plant owners to plug in directly, avoiding a potentially longer and more expensive process of hooking into a fraying electric grid that serves everyone else.

It's raising questions over whether diverting power to higher-paying customers will leave enough for others and whether it's fair to excuse big power users from paying for the grid. Federal regulators are trying to figure out what to do about it, and quickly.

Front and center is the data center that Amazon's cloud computing subsidiary, Amazon Web Services, is building next to the Susquehanna nuclear plant in eastern Pennsylvania.

The arrangement between the plant's owners and AWS — called a "behind the meter" connection — is the first such to come before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. For now, FERC has rejected a deal that could eventually send 960 megawatts — about 40% of the plant's capacity — to the data center. That's enough to power more than a half-million homes.

That leaves the deal and others that likely would follow in limbo. It's not clear when FERC, which blocked the deal on a procedural ground, will take up the matter again or how the change in presidential administrations might affect things.

"The companies, they're very frustrated because they have a business opportunity now that's really big," said Bill Green, the director of the MIT Energy Initiative. "And if they're delayed five years in the queue, for example

amazon
web services

193

— I don’t know if it would be five years, but years anyway — they might completely miss the business opportunity.”

WHAT’S DRIVING DEMAND FOR ENERGY-HUNGRY DATA CENTERS

The rapid growth of cloud computing and artificial intelligence has fueled demand for data centers that need power to run servers, storage systems, networking equipment and cooling systems.

That’s spurred proposals to bring nuclear power plants out of retirement, develop small modular nuclear reactors and build utility-scale renewable installations or new natural gas plants. In December, California-based Oklo announced an agreement to provide 12 gigawatts to data center developer Switch from small nuclear reactors powered by nuclear waste.

Federal officials say fast development of data centers is vital to the economy and national security, including to keep pace with China in the artificial intelligence race.

For AWS, the deal with Susquehanna satisfies its need for reliable power that meets its internal requirements for sources that don’t emit planet-warming greenhouse gases, like coal, oil or gas-fueled plants.

Big Tech also wants to stand up their centers fast. But tech’s voracious appetite for energy comes at a time when the power supply is already strained by efforts to shift away from planet-warming fossil fuels.

They can build data centers in a couple years, said Aaron Tinjum of the Data Center Coalition. But in some areas, getting connected to the congested electricity grid can take four years, and sometimes much more, he said.

Plugging directly into a power plant would take years off their development timelines.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR POWER PROVIDERS

In theory, the AWS deal would let Susquehanna sell power for more than they get by selling into the grid. Talen Energy, Susquehanna's majority owner, projected the deal would bring as much as $140 million in electricity sales in 2028, though it didn't disclose exactly how much AWS will pay for the power.

The profit potential is one that other nuclear plant operators, in particular, are embracing after years of financial distress and frustration with how they are paid in the broader electricity markets. Many say they have been forced to compete in some markets against a flood of cheap natural gas as well as state-subsidized solar and wind energy.

Power plant owners also say the arrangement benefits the wider public, by bypassing the costly buildout of long power lines and leaving more transmission capacity on the grid for everyone else.

FERC'S BIG DECISION

A favorable ruling from FERC could open the door to many more huge data centers and other massive power users like hydrogen plants and bitcoin miners, analysts say.

FEDERAL ENERGY
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FERC's 2-1 rejection in November was procedural. Recent comments by commissioners suggest they weren't ready to decide how to regulate such a novel matter without more study.

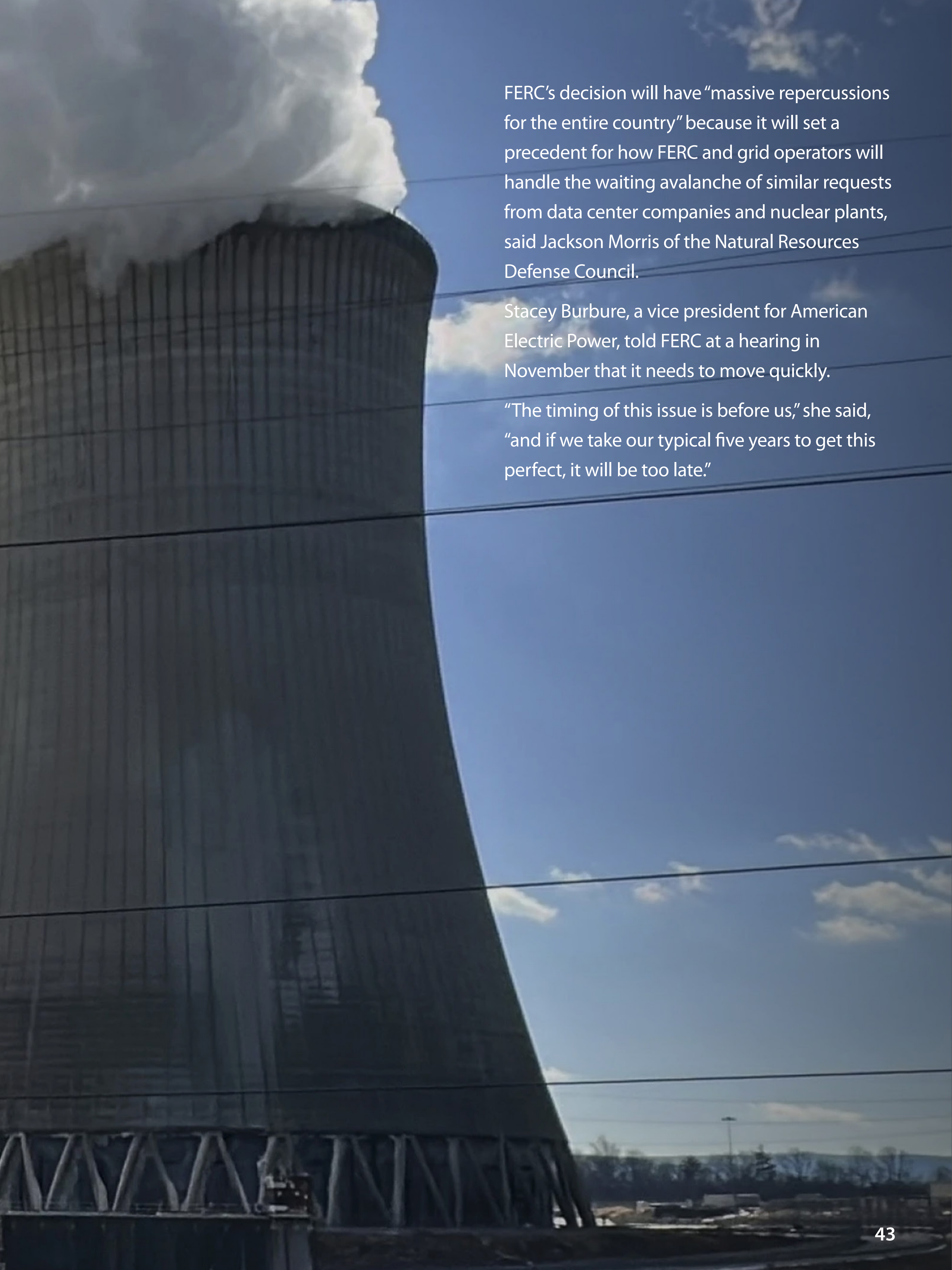
In the meantime, the agency is hearing arguments for and against the Susquehanna-AWS deal.

Monitoring Analytics, the market watchdog in the mid-Atlantic grid, wrote in a filing to FERC that the impact would be "extreme" if the Susquehanna-AWS model were extended to all nuclear power plants in the territory.

Energy prices would increase significantly and there's no explanation for how rising demand for power will be met even before big power plants drop out of the supply mix, it said.

Separately, two electric utility owners — which make money in deregulated states from building out the grid and delivering power — have protested that the Susquehanna-AWS arrangement amounts to freeloading off a grid that ordinary customers pay to build and maintain. Chicago-based Exelon and Columbus, Ohio-based American Electric Power say the Susquehanna-AWS arrangement would allow AWS to avoid $140 million a year that it would otherwise owe.

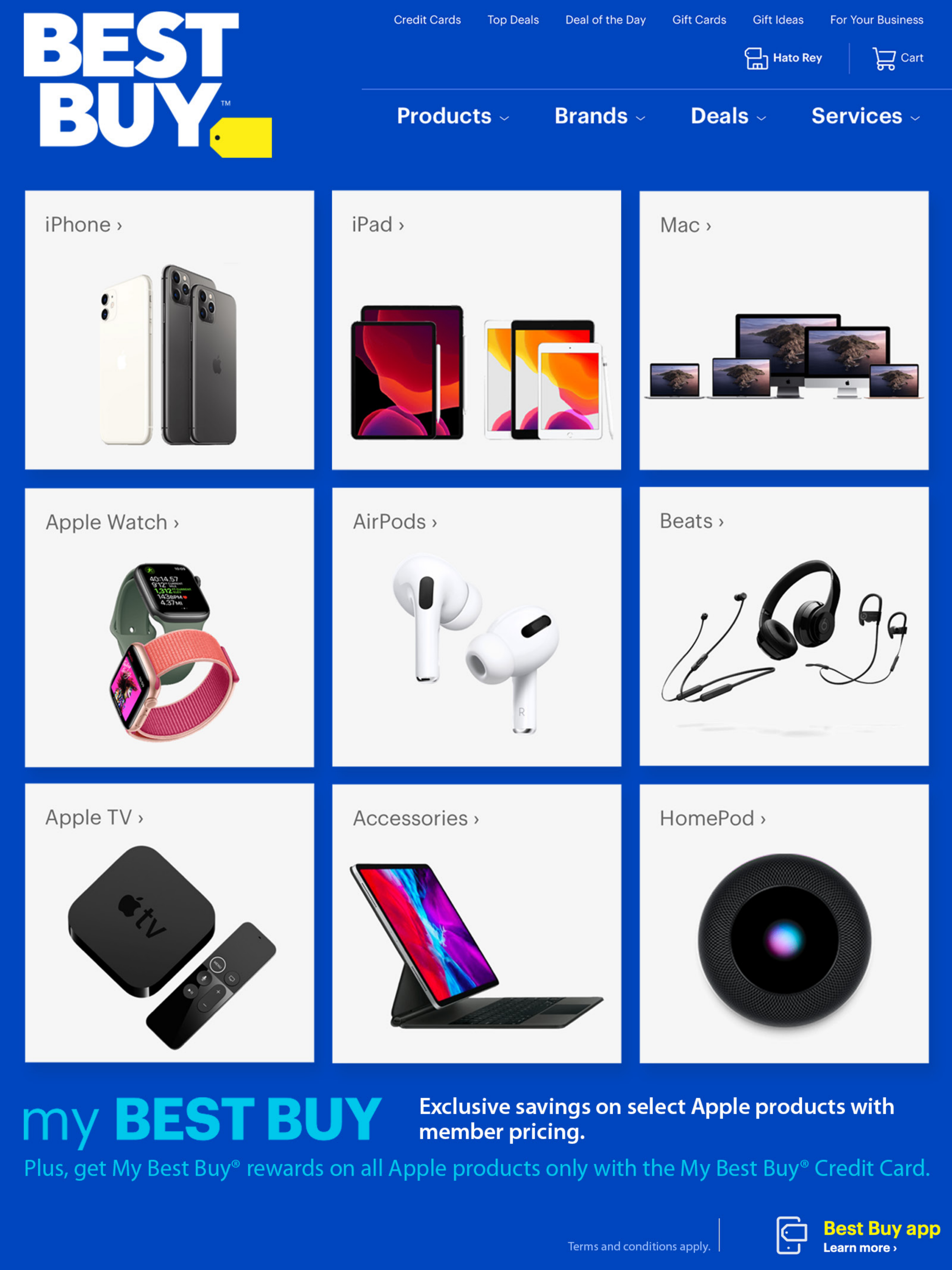
Susquehanna's owners say the data center won't be on the grid and question why it should have to pay to maintain it. But critics contend that the power plant itself is benefiting from taxpayer subsidies and ratepayer-subsidized services, and shouldn't be able to strike deals with private customers that could increase costs for others.



FERC's decision will have "massive repercussions for the entire country" because it will set a precedent for how FERC and grid operators will handle the waiting avalanche of similar requests from data center companies and nuclear plants, said Jackson Morris of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Stacey Burbure, a vice president for American Electric Power, told FERC at a hearing in November that it needs to move quickly.

"The timing of this issue is before us," she said, "and if we take our typical five years to get this perfect, it will be too late."



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DEEPSEEK'S NEW AI CHATBOT AND CHATGPT ANSWER SENSITIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CHINA DIFFERENTLY

Chinese tech startup DeepSeek 's new artificial intelligence chatbot has sparked discussions about the competition between China and the U.S. in AI development, with many users flocking to test the rival of OpenAI's ChatGPT.

DeepSeek's AI assistant was the No. 1 downloaded free app on Apple's iPhone store on Tuesday afternoon and its launch made Wall Street tech superstars' stocks tumble. Observers are eager to see whether the Chinese company has matched America's leading AI companies at a fraction of the cost.

The chatbot's ultimate impact on the AI industry is still unclear, but it appears to censor answers on sensitive Chinese topics, a practice commonly seen on China's internet. In 2023, China issued regulations requiring companies to conduct a security review and obtain approvals before their products can be publicly launched.

Here are some answers received from DeepSeek's new chatbot and ChatGPT:

WHAT DOES WINNIE THE POOH MEAN IN CHINA?

For many Chinese, the Winnie the Pooh character is a playful taunt of President Xi Jinping. Chinese censors in the past briefly banned social media searches for the bear in mainland China.

ChatGPT got that idea right. It said Winnie the Pooh had become a symbol of political satire and resistance, often used to mock or criticize Xi. It explained that internet users compared Xi to the bear because of perceived similarities in their physical appearance.

DeepSeek's chatbot said the bear is a beloved cartoon character that is adored by countless children and families in China, symbolizing joy and friendship.

Then, abruptly, it said the Chinese government is "dedicated to providing a wholesome cyberspace for its citizens." It added that all online content is managed under Chinese laws and socialist core values, with the aim of protecting national security and social stability.

WHO IS THE CURRENT US PRESIDENT?

It might be easy for many people to answer, but both AI chatbots mistakenly said Joe Biden, whose term ended last week, because they said their data was last updated in October 2023. But they both tried to be responsible by reminding users to verify with updated sources.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE MILITARY CRACKDOWN IN BEIJING'S TIANANMEN SQUARE IN JUNE 1989?

The 1989 crackdown saw government troops open fire on student-led pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, resulting in hundreds, if not thousands, of deaths. The event remains a taboo subject in mainland China.

DeepSeek's chatbot answered, "Sorry, that's beyond my current scope. Let's talk about something else."

But ChatGPT gave a detailed answer on what it called "one of the most significant and tragic events" in modern Chinese history. The chatbot talked about the background of the

Hi, I'm DeepSeek.
How can I help you today?
Message DeepSeek
DeepThink (R1)

massive protests, the estimated casualties and their legacy.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF US-CHINA RELATIONS?

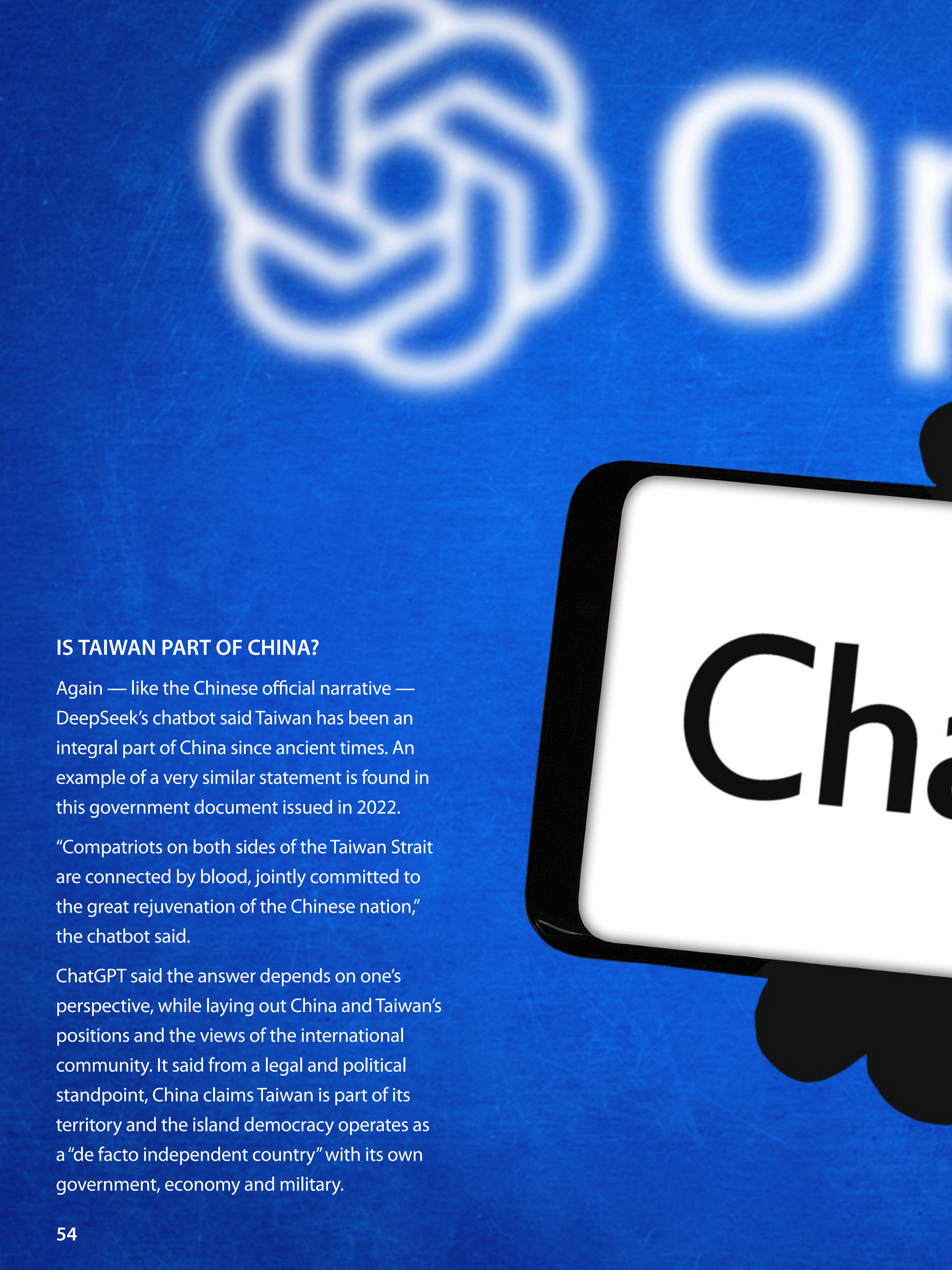
DeepSeek's chatbot's answer echoed China's official statements, saying the relationship between the world's two largest economies is one of the most important bilateral relationships globally. It said China is committed to developing ties with the U.S. based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

"We hope that the United States will work with China to meet each other halfway, properly manage differences, promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and push forward the healthy and stable development of China-U.S. relations," it said.

Some of these phrases — "meet ... halfway," "mutual respect" and "win-win cooperation" — mirror language used by a Chinese Foreign Ministry official in a 2021 news conference.

ChatGPT's answer was more nuanced. It said the state of the U.S.-China relationship is complex, characterized by a mix of economic interdependence, geopolitical rivalry and collaboration on global issues. It highlighted key topics including the two countries' tensions over the South China Sea and Taiwan, their technological competition and more.

"The relationship between the U.S. and China remains tense but crucial," part of its answer said.

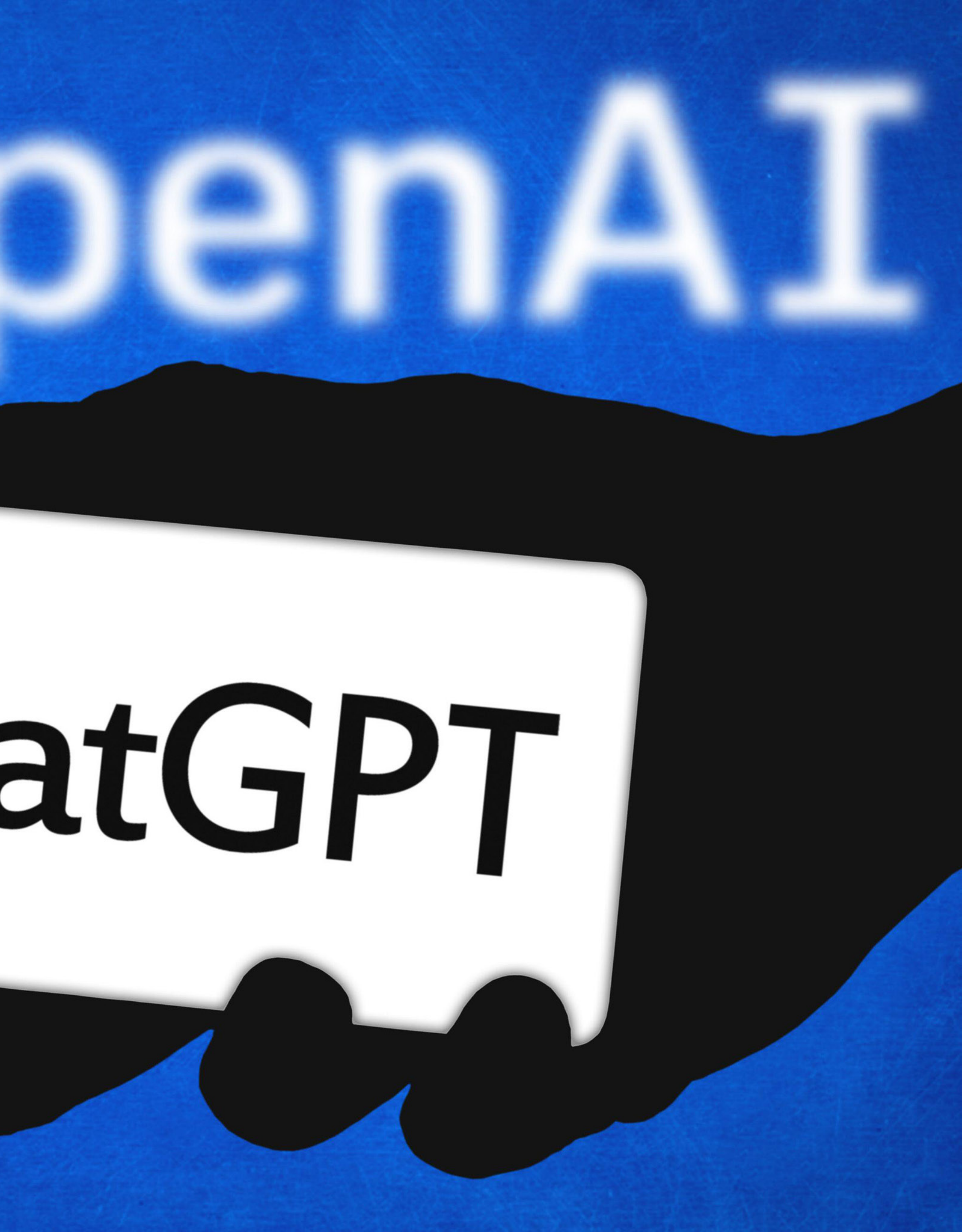


IS TAIWAN PART OF CHINA?

Again — like the Chinese official narrative — DeepSeek's chatbot said Taiwan has been an integral part of China since ancient times. An example of a very similar statement is found in this government document issued in 2022.

"Compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are connected by blood, jointly committed to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," the chatbot said.

ChatGPT said the answer depends on one's perspective, while laying out China and Taiwan's positions and the views of the international community. It said from a legal and political standpoint, China claims Taiwan is part of its territory and the island democracy operates as a "de facto independent country" with its own government, economy and military.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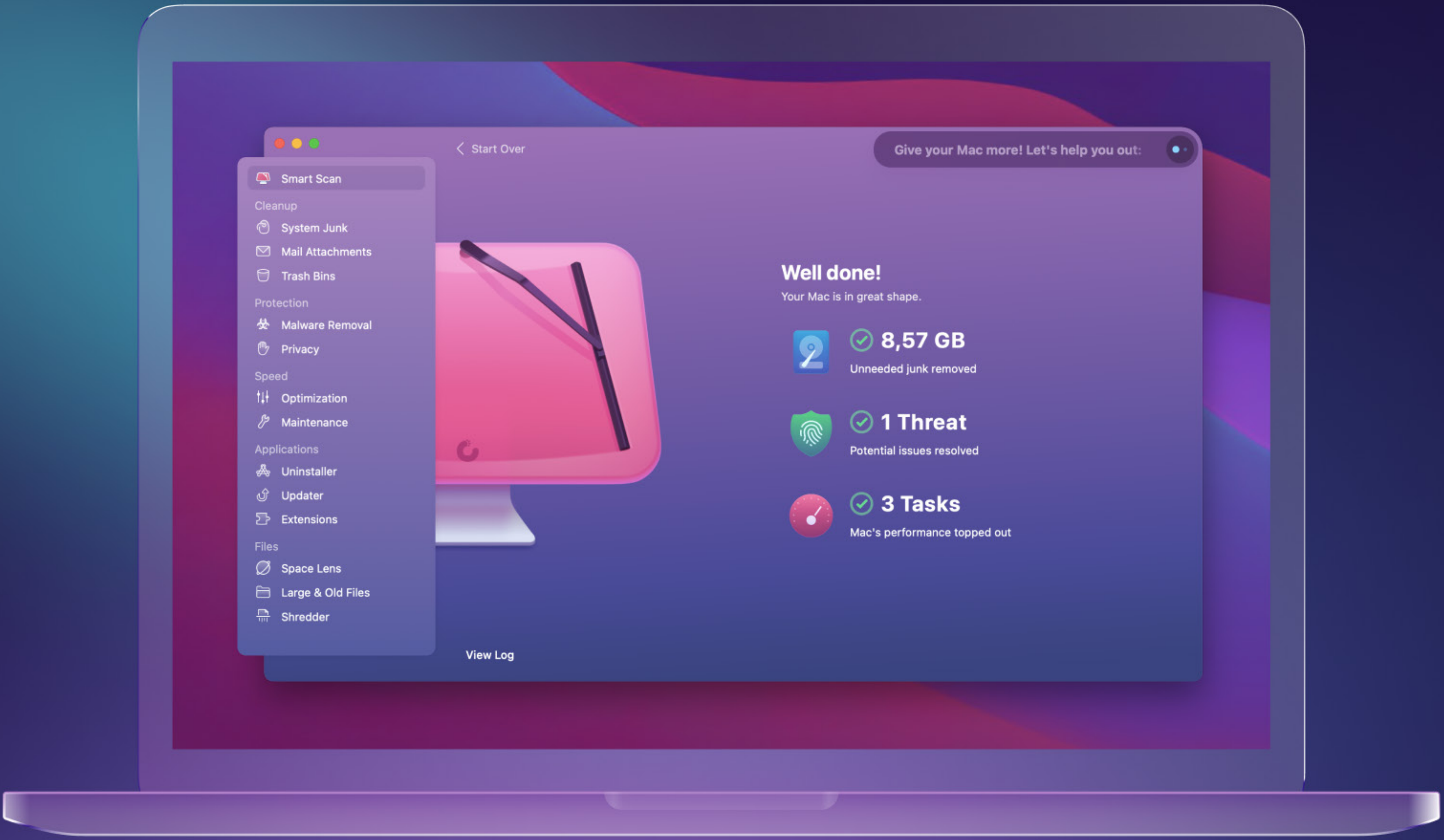

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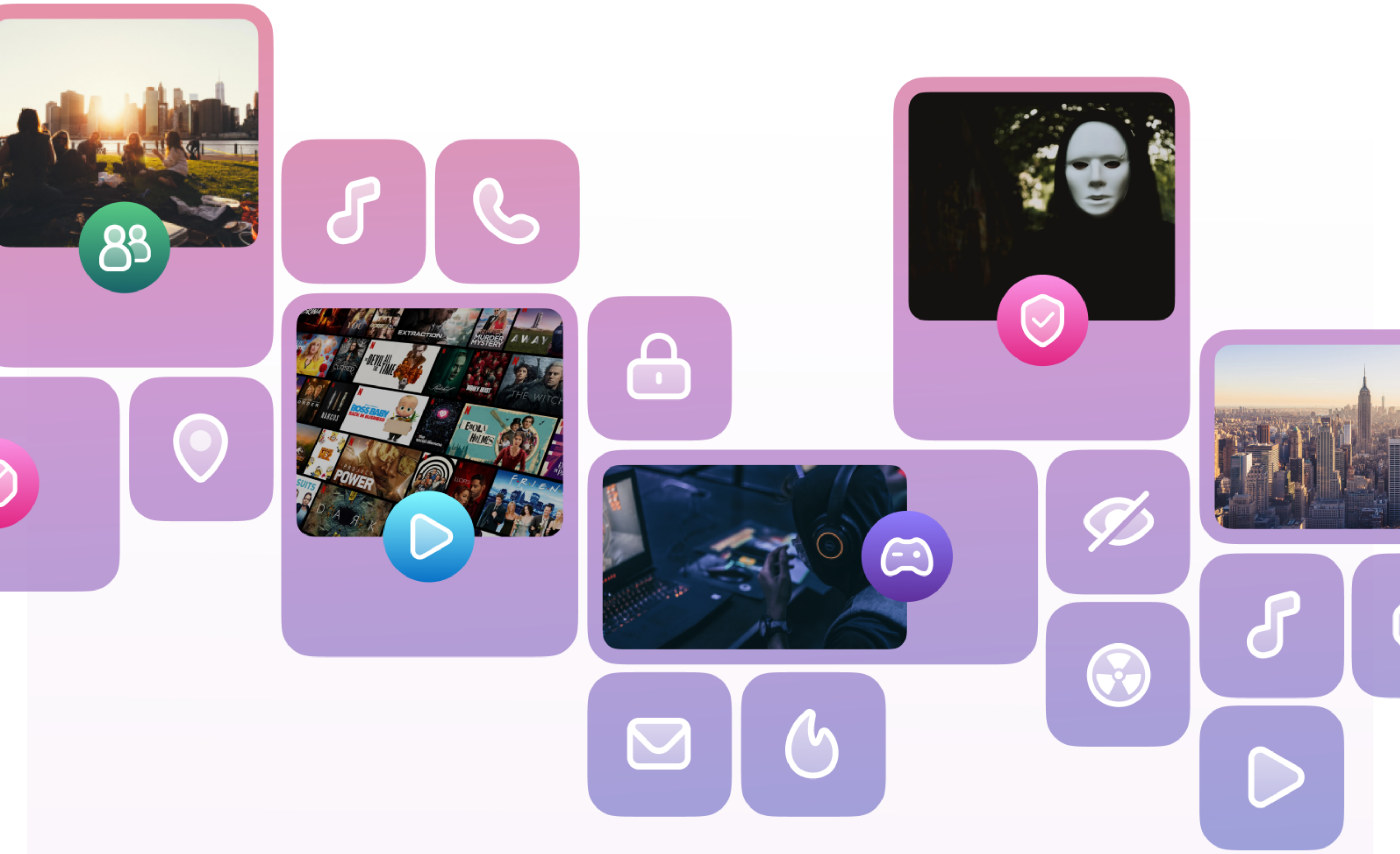

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Model Y

THE NEW VERSION OF THE WORLD’S BEST-SELLING CAR

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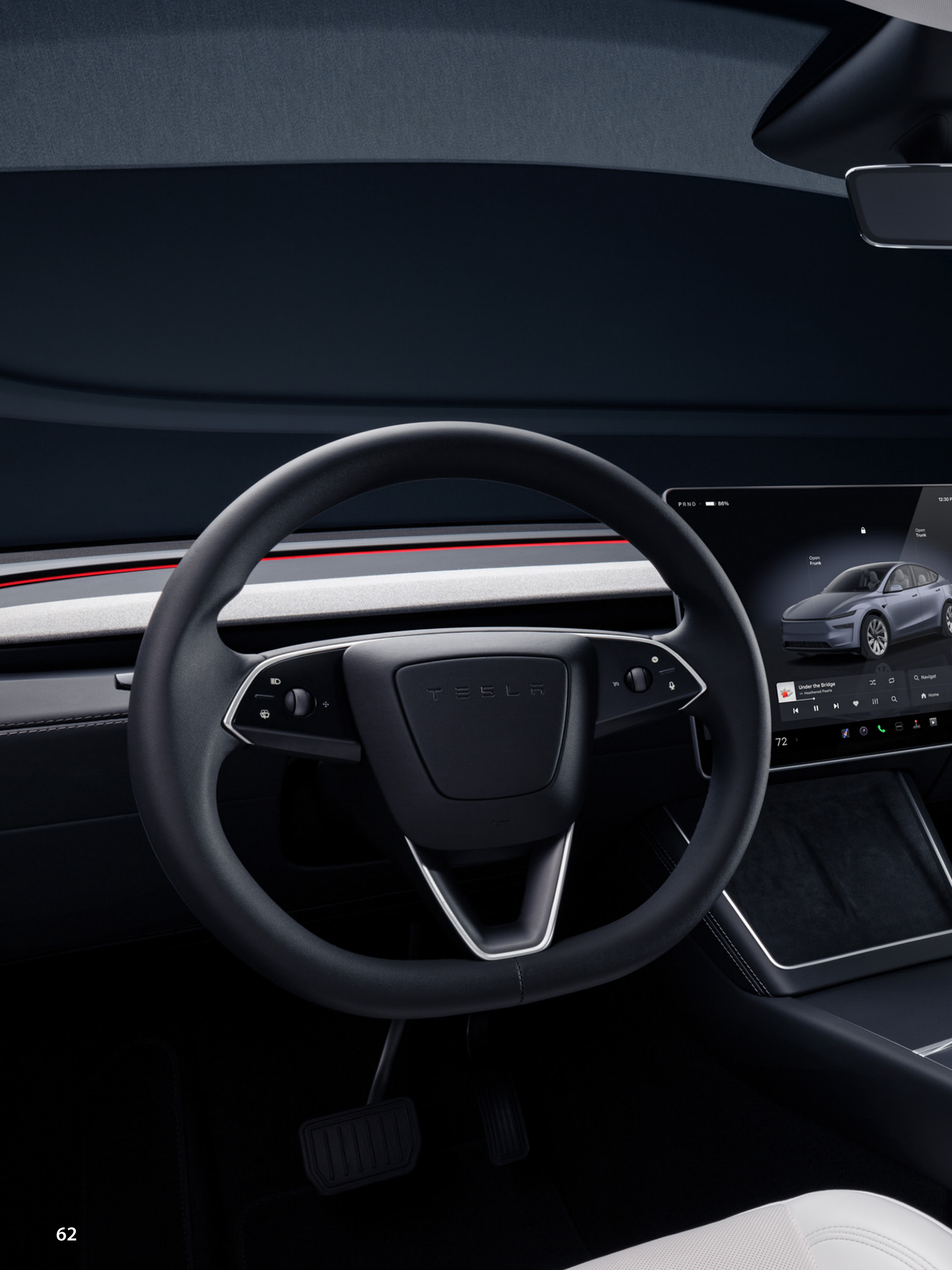
MODEL Y

Tesla continues to cement its position as a trailblazer in the electric vehicle market with the launch of its redesigned Model Y crossover. The new release is designed to rejuvenate its best-selling model, boost sales volumes, and captivate a broader audience of eco-conscious drivers as more consumers switch to EVs than ever before.



MODEL Y

Since its **initial launch in 2020,** the Model Y has enjoyed a meteoric rise, **becoming the world's best-selling car in 2023.** Last year saw a slight dip in sales momentum, marking Tesla's first annual delivery drop. This decline was attributed to increased competition from rivals in China and Europe, signaling the need for innovation and reinvigoration. The newly redesigned Model Y addresses these challenges head-on,

promising enhanced features and improved performance to reclaim its market dominance.

The most striking change in the new Model Y is its **complete exterior redesign**. Every aspect has been meticulously crafted to unlock maximum efficiency from the front bumper to the taillights. The updated fascia features a lower front splitter and a full-width headlight reminiscent of **Tesla's iconic Cybertruck and Robotaxi designs.** This futuristic and minimalist aesthetic not only enhances visual appeal but

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also contributes to improved aerodynamics, allowing for an extended range of 320 miles (515 km) on a single charge. At the rear, **Tesla has introduced a distinctive lighting system.** The single, cross-car lamp serves as the first indirect reflective body panel taillight of its kind, offering an ambient glow that sets the Model Y apart from its competitors. The redesigned body castings reduce the number of parts from 70 to just one, minimizing gaps and creating a whisper-quiet ride. The updated suspension, wheels, and tires enhance the vehicle's smoothness and silence, ensuring a refined driving experience.

TESL
TESLA
TESLA

TESLA

STEP INSIDE

Step inside the newly redesigned Model Y and the **improvements will immediately appear.** Tesla has focused on creating a cabin environment that redefines comfort and connectivity. The all-new interior **boasts refined materials and ambient lighting,** seamlessly integrating with advanced features. Specially engineered acoustic glass ensures a vast silence within the cabin, allowing occupants to enjoy their favorite music or media without intrusive external noise. **The seating has undergone significant upgrades,** with both front and rear seats now heated and ventilated. Power

recline and soft-touch textiles add to the overall comfort, making every journey more enjoyable. Front and rear touchscreens provide intuitive control over climate and entertainment settings, placing all essential functions within easy reach. One notable addition is the **reinstated indicator stalk,** a feature long criticized in the previous Model 3's steering wheel design. Tesla has listened to feedback, opting to retain the traditional stalk in the Model Y, much to the relief of drivers who found the button-based system cumbersome, especially in countries with numerous roundabouts.

Better material finishes and enhanced ambient lighting also benefit the interior. The glass reflects 26% more sunlight to keep the cabin cool in the summer and reduce glare. The 15.4-inch central touchscreen remains a core feature, continuously updated via Tesla's over-the-air software updates to ensure the latest functionalities are always available. Although Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are absent, the system remains robust and user-friendly.

SELF-DRIVING

The new Model Y comes **exclusively in the "Launch Series" variant, priced at $59,990 in the U.S.** That's a 25% increase over the previous model's highest version. Despite the higher cost, this limited edition offers substantial upgrades, including **Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) advanced driver assistance system** as standard. Typically, an $8,000 add-on, including FSD in the Launch Series, adds significant value, providing enhanced safety and convenience features that set the Model Y apart from other electric crossovers.

Tesla's commitment to over-the-air updates ensures that the Model Y remains at the forefront of automotive technology. Owners can expect continuous improvements and new features, keeping their vehicles up-to-date without needing dealership visits. The ultra-responsive 15.4-inch central touchscreen and the additional 8-inch rear touchscreen for second-row passengers enhance the in-car entertainment and connectivity experience, supporting everything from gaming to streaming media.

MODEL Y

THE ROAD AHEAD

Under the bonnet, the redesigned Model Y boasts a slightly extended range of 320 miles (515 km, thanks to aerodynamic enhancements and a more efficient powertrain. The Launch Series variant is equipped with Dual Motor All-Wheel Drive, delivering robust performance without compromising efficiency. Acceleration from 0 to 60 mph in just 4.1 seconds underscores the Model Y's sporty capabilities, making it one of the fastest-charging electric family cars on the market. Tesla has also **optimized the vehicle's battery and charging systems.** The Model Y supports a maximum charging rate of 250 kW, allowing drivers to add up to 154 miles of range in a mere 15 minutes at one of the **extensive Supercharger network's over 60,000 locations** worldwide. This rapid charging capability rivals premium models from Porsche, Audi, and Kia, ensuring that Tesla owners enjoy unparalleled convenience on long journeys.

While the Launch Series sets a new benchmark for the Model Y, priced at $59,990, Tesla has strategically listed the older Model Y variants in its inventory, offering discounts of more than $3,500 on select models. The pricing strategy reflects Tesla's broader market approach: balancing premium offerings with accessible options to cater to a diverse customer base. The initial higher price point for the Launch Series is justified by the extensive upgrades and limited availability, creating exclusivity and desirability. As **Tesla plans to introduce a cheaper model,** the company aims to attract a broader swathe of buyers, ensuring sustained growth and competitiveness in the burgeoning electric vehicle market.

91% Charged
50

The electric crossover segment has become increasingly competitive, with manufacturers like Volkswagen, Ford, and Hyundai introducing formidable rivals. However, the redesigned Model Y distinguishes itself through its superior range, advanced technology, and Tesla’s unrivaled Supercharger network. Competitors such as the Ford Mustang Mach-E, Volkswagen ID.4, and Hyundai Ioniq 5 offer compelling alternatives but often fall short in one or more key areas. The **Model Y’s 320-mile range surpasses many of its rivals** while the inclusion of Full Self-Driving as standard in the Launch Series adds a layer of sophistication and safety that’s hard to match. The seamless integration of over-the-air updates and the expansive Supercharger infrastructure provide Tesla owners with convenience and reliability that is difficult for competitors to replicate.

12:30 PM

Tesla's redesign of the Model Y underscores its commitment to sustainability and efficiency. The **reduction in body parts from 70 to one** not only simplifies manufacturing but also reduces material usage and waste, contributing to a lower environmental footprint. The enhanced aerodynamics improve energy efficiency, allowing the vehicle to travel further on each charge and reducing the electricity demand. Moreover, Tesla prioritizes using sustainable materials within the cabin, minimizing the environmental impact. The company's dedication to green technology is evident in every aspect of the Model Y's design and performance, reinforcing Tesla's role as a leader in the transition to a sustainable future.

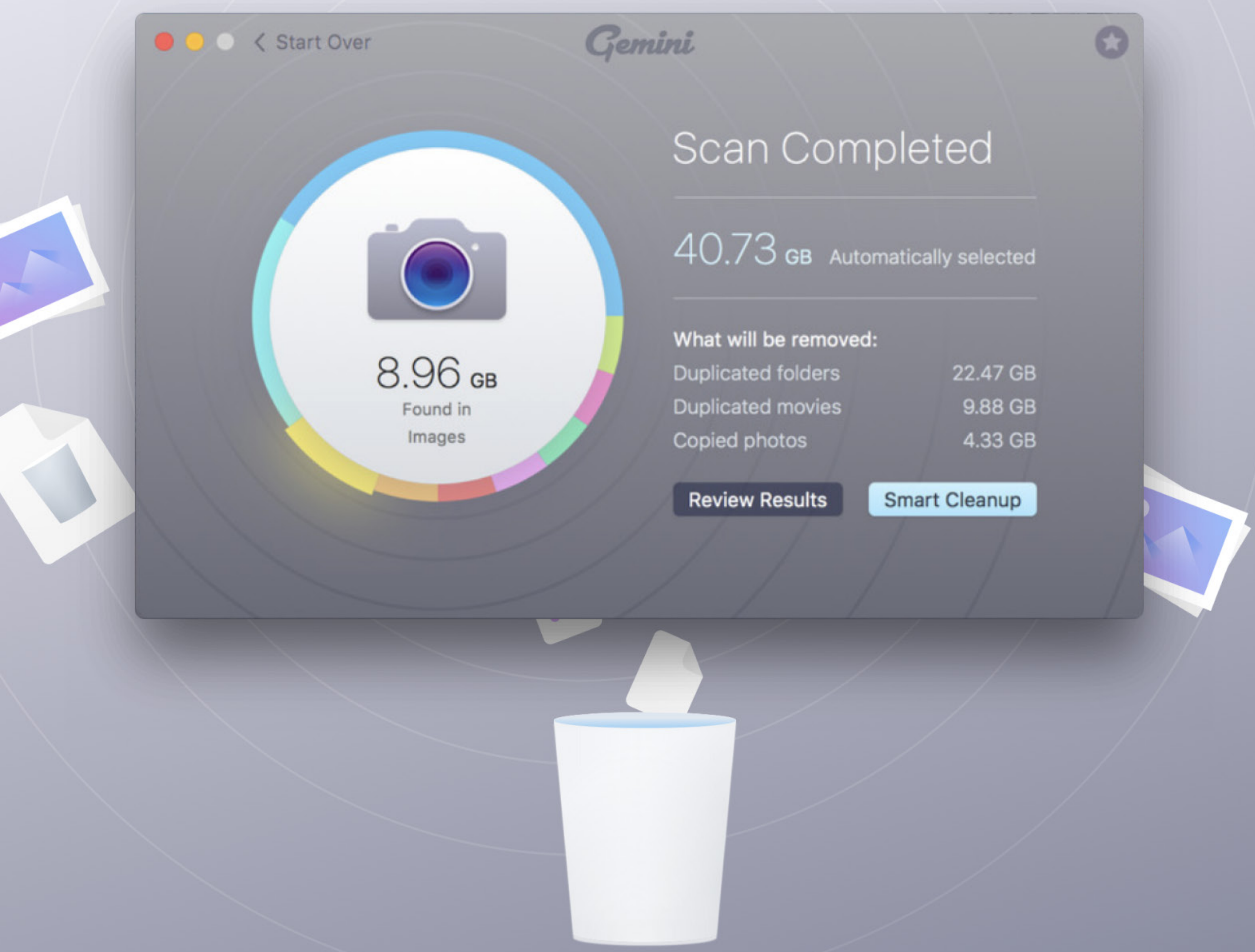
Early feedback from enthusiasts and industry insiders has been overwhelmingly positive. Vicky Parrott, an **automotive journalist with a keen eye for detail, shares her initial impressions:** "The new Model Y is a testament to Tesla's ability to innovate and adapt in a rapidly changing market. The redesigned exterior is visually striking and functionally superior, offering better aerodynamics and an extended range that truly sets it apart. Inside, the improvements in comfort and technology create a luxurious and intuitive driving environment. Including Full Self-Driving as standard in the Launch Series is a game-changer, providing peace of mind and advanced safety features that enhance the overall driving experience." However, not all feedback has been purely laudatory. Some critics point to the significant price increase for the Launch Series, questioning whether the added features justify the higher cost. Additionally, the absence of a seven-seater option in the

initial release has disappointed families seeking maximum flexibility.

The redesigned Tesla Model Y marks a significant milestone in the electric vehicle market, blending advanced technology, superior performance, and sustainable design in a practical and aspirational package. While the initial Launch Series may cater to a premium segment, Tesla's strategic pricing and forthcoming affordable model promise to keep the Model Y at the forefront of the electric crossover segment. As Tesla continues to innovate and expand its offerings, the new Model Y stands as a shining example of the future for electric vehicles: efficient, technologically advanced, and accessible to a broader range of drivers. Whether you're a long-time Tesla enthusiast or a newcomer to the world of electric vehicles, the redesigned Model Y is poised to impress, making it a top choice in a crowded market.

12:30
Model Y
80%
Parked
Controls
Climate
Interior 70°F
Location
Summon
Security

As Tesla prepares to launch a more affordable variant, the Model Y remains a strong and appealing option for those seeking a modern, efficient, and technologically advanced vehicle. We can't wait to test drive one and see what the brand has in store.



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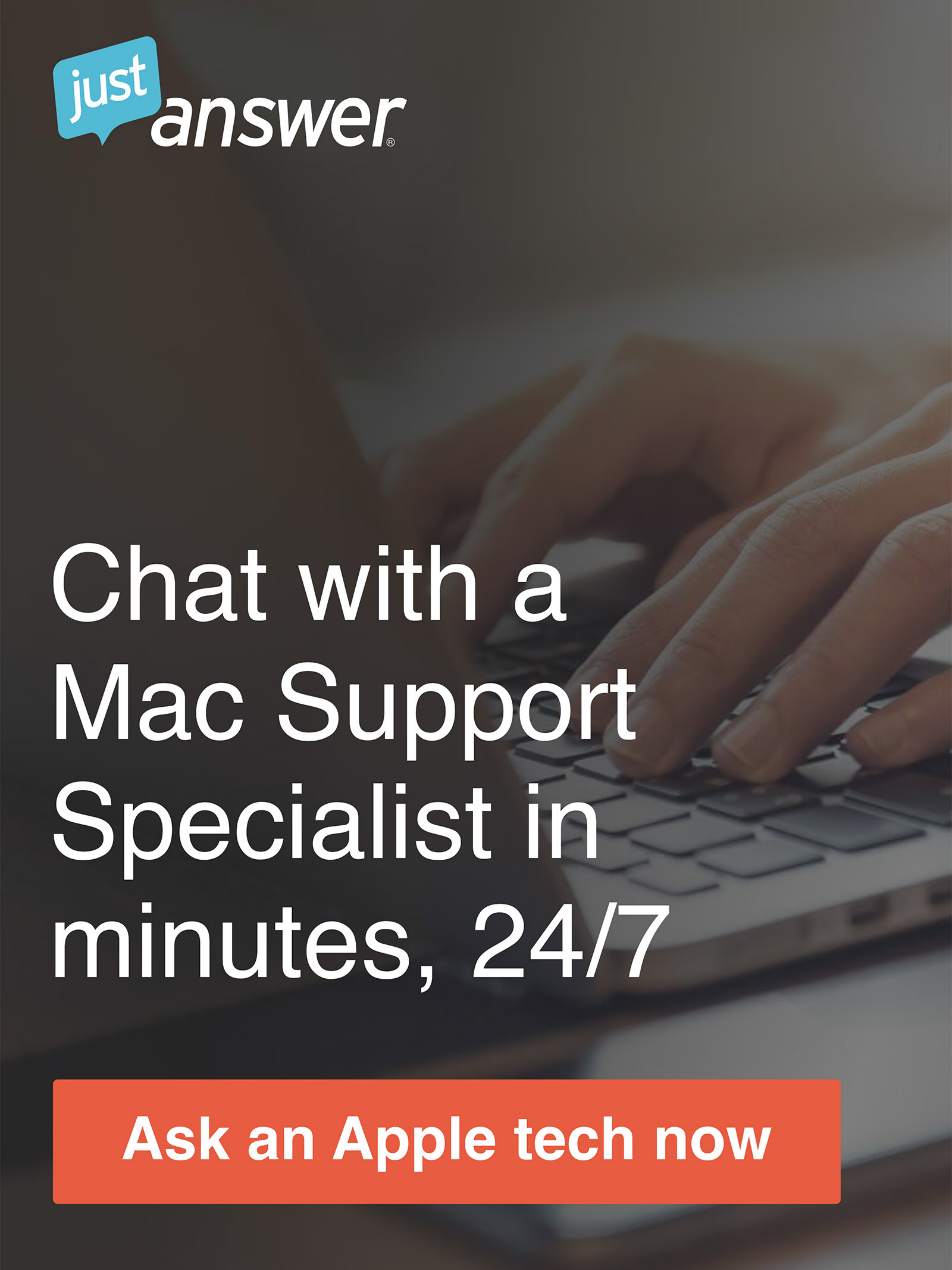

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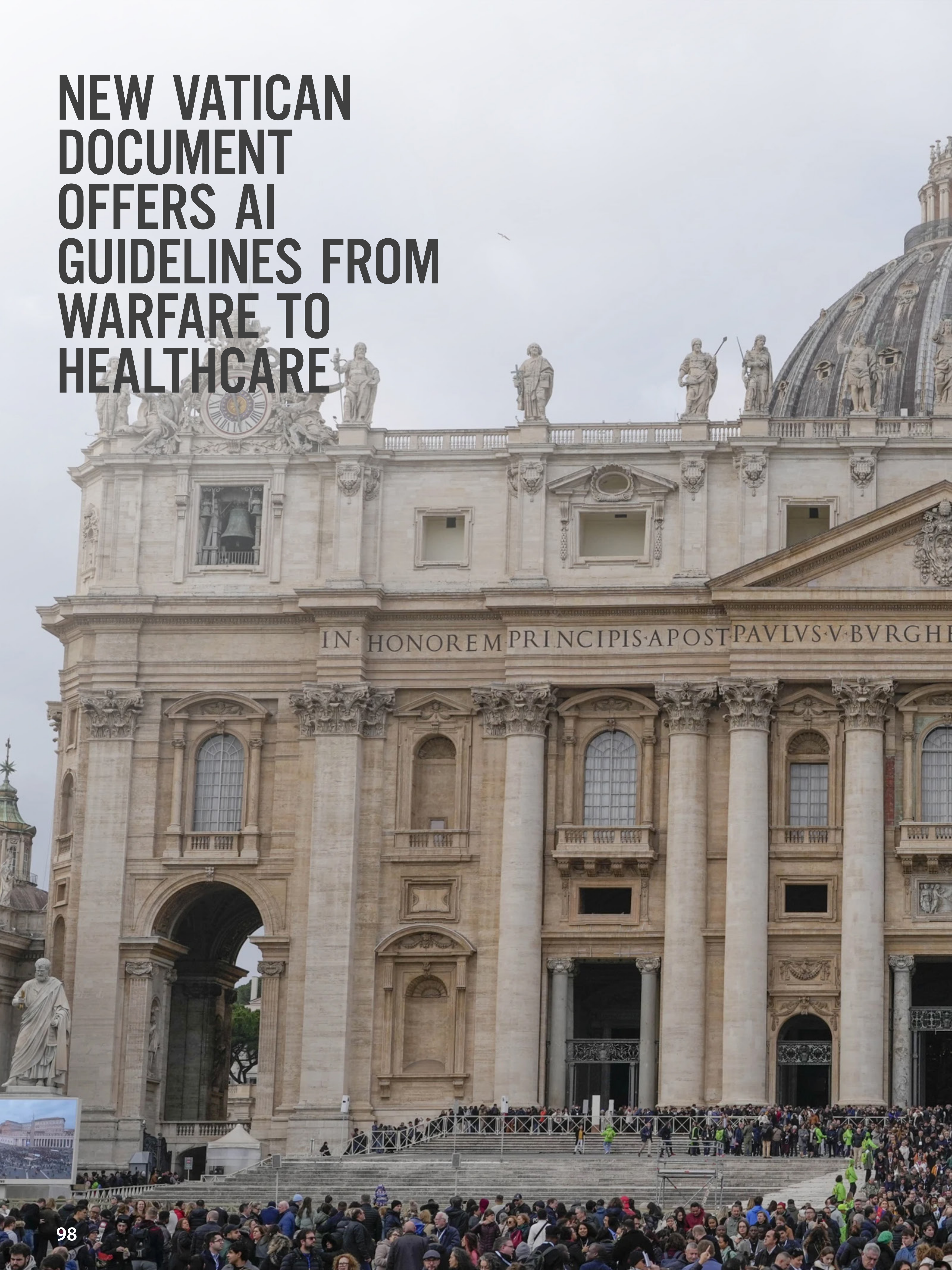
NEW VATICAN DOCUMENT OFFERS AI GUIDELINES FROM WARFARE TO HEALTHCARE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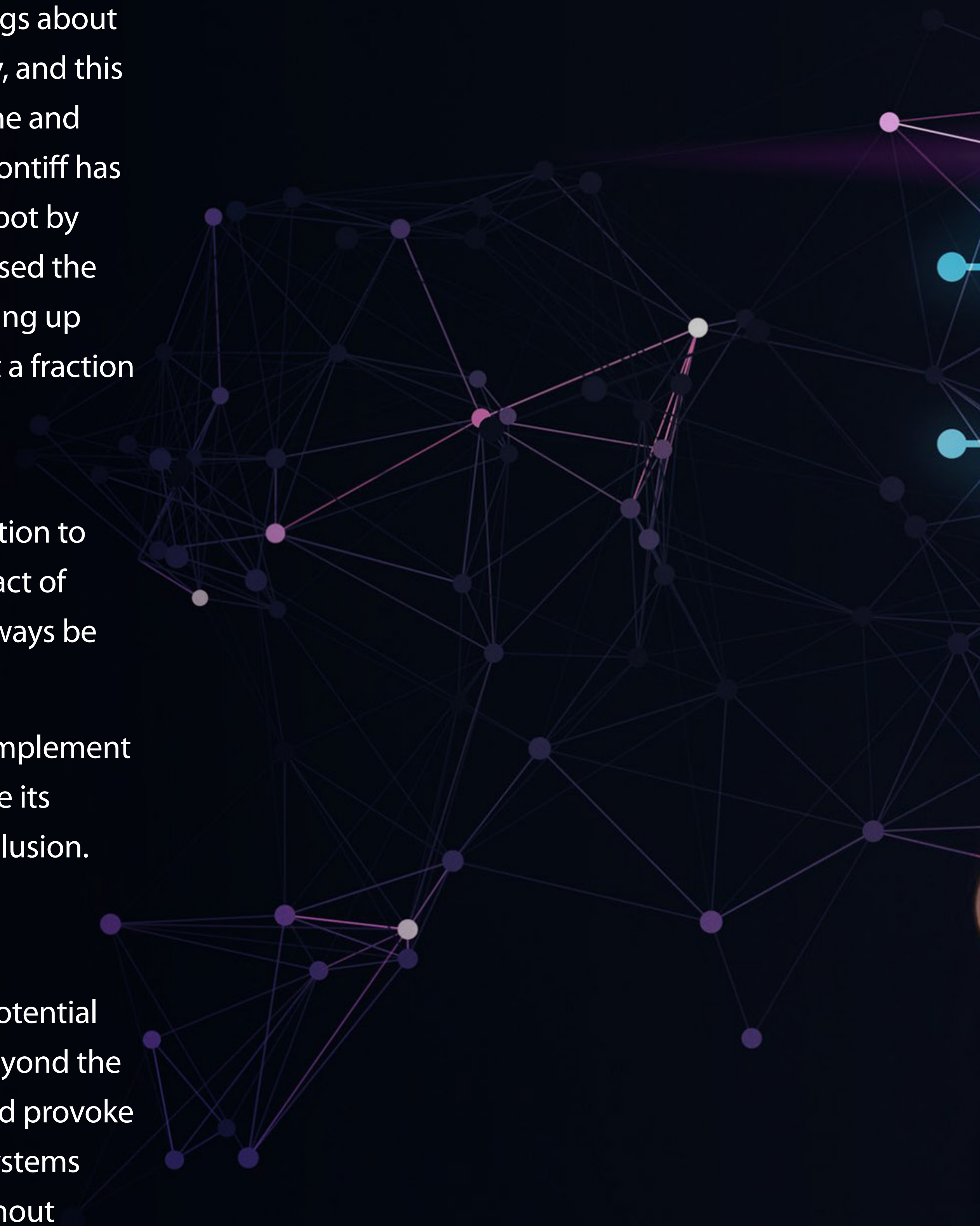
A Vatican document released this week offers wide-ranging ethical guidelines for the application of artificial intelligence in sectors from warfare to healthcare, with an underlying call that the burgeoning technology must be used as a tool to complement, and not replace, human intelligence.

Pope Francis has issued several warnings about the risks associated with AI technology, and this new document by the Vatican's doctrine and cultural offices expands on what the pontiff has already said. It comes as a new AI chatbot by Chinese tech startup DeepSeek has raised the stakes in the AI technology race, catching up with American generative AI leaders at a fraction of the cost.



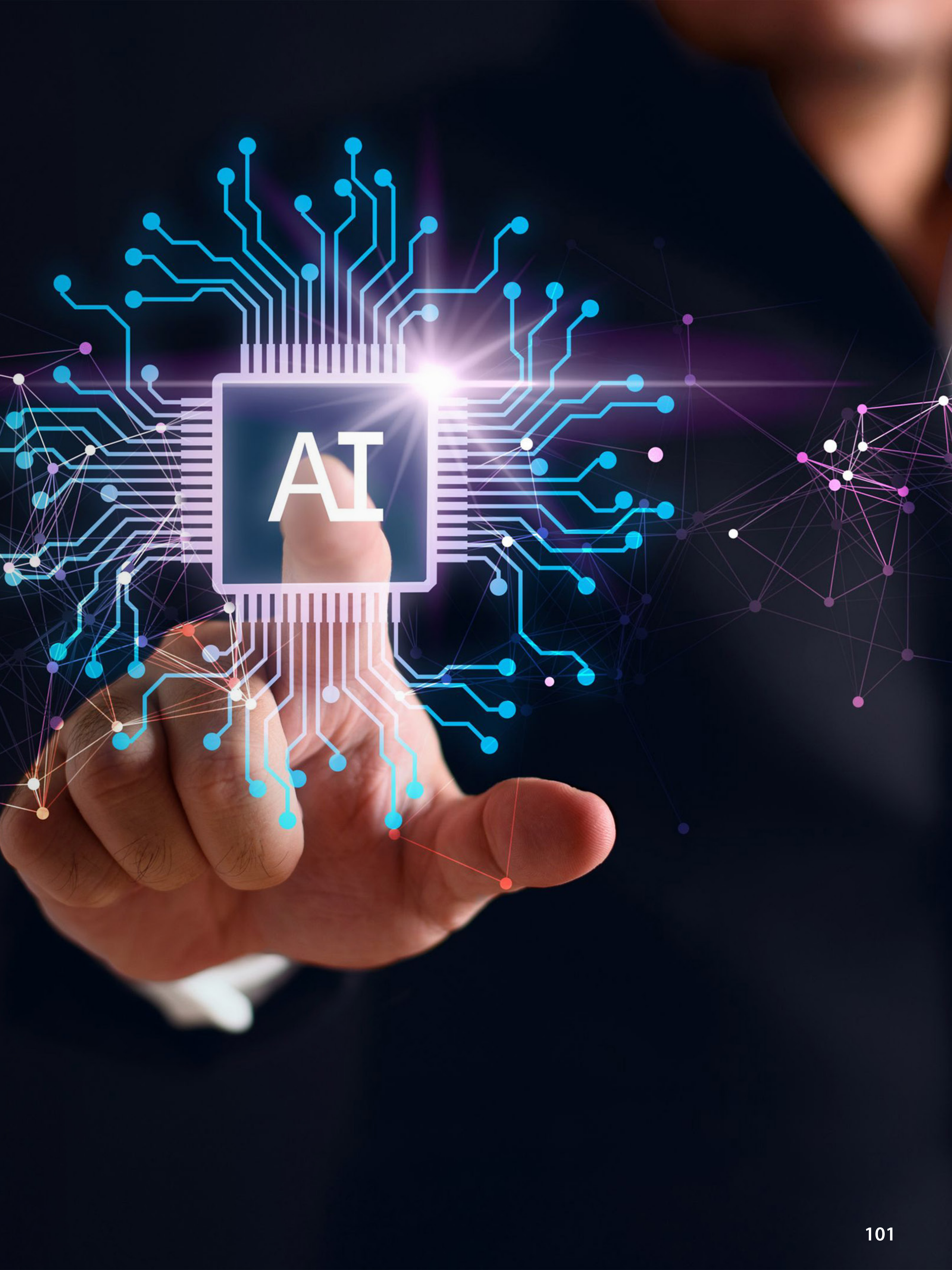
The document underlines that human responsibility needs to grow in proportion to the new technology, and that the impact of AI's uses in various sectors "may not always be predictable from their inception."

"AI should be used only as a tool to complement human intelligence, rather than replace its richness, the document said in its conclusion.

AI AND WARFARE

The document warns that AI has the potential to increase instruments of war "well beyond the scope of human oversight," which could provoke "a destabilizing arms race." Weapons systems that can identify and strike targets without human intervention, removing "the unique human capacity for moral judgement and ethical decision-making," it said.

"No machine should ever choose to take the life of a human being," the document warned.


AI

AI AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

The document warns that AI is not a substitute for "authentic human relationships," and cites its lack of empathy as a risk when anthropomorphizing AI in areas such as child development or interpersonal relationships.

"While human beings are meant to experience authentic relationships, AI can only simulate them," the document said.

AI AND SEARCH FOR MEANING

The document cites the risk that "as society drifts away from connection with the transcendent, some are tempted to turn to AI in search of meaning and fulfillment — longings that can only be truly satisfied in communion with God."

"The presumption of substituting God for an artifact of human making is idolatry, a practice Scripture explicitly warns against," the document said.

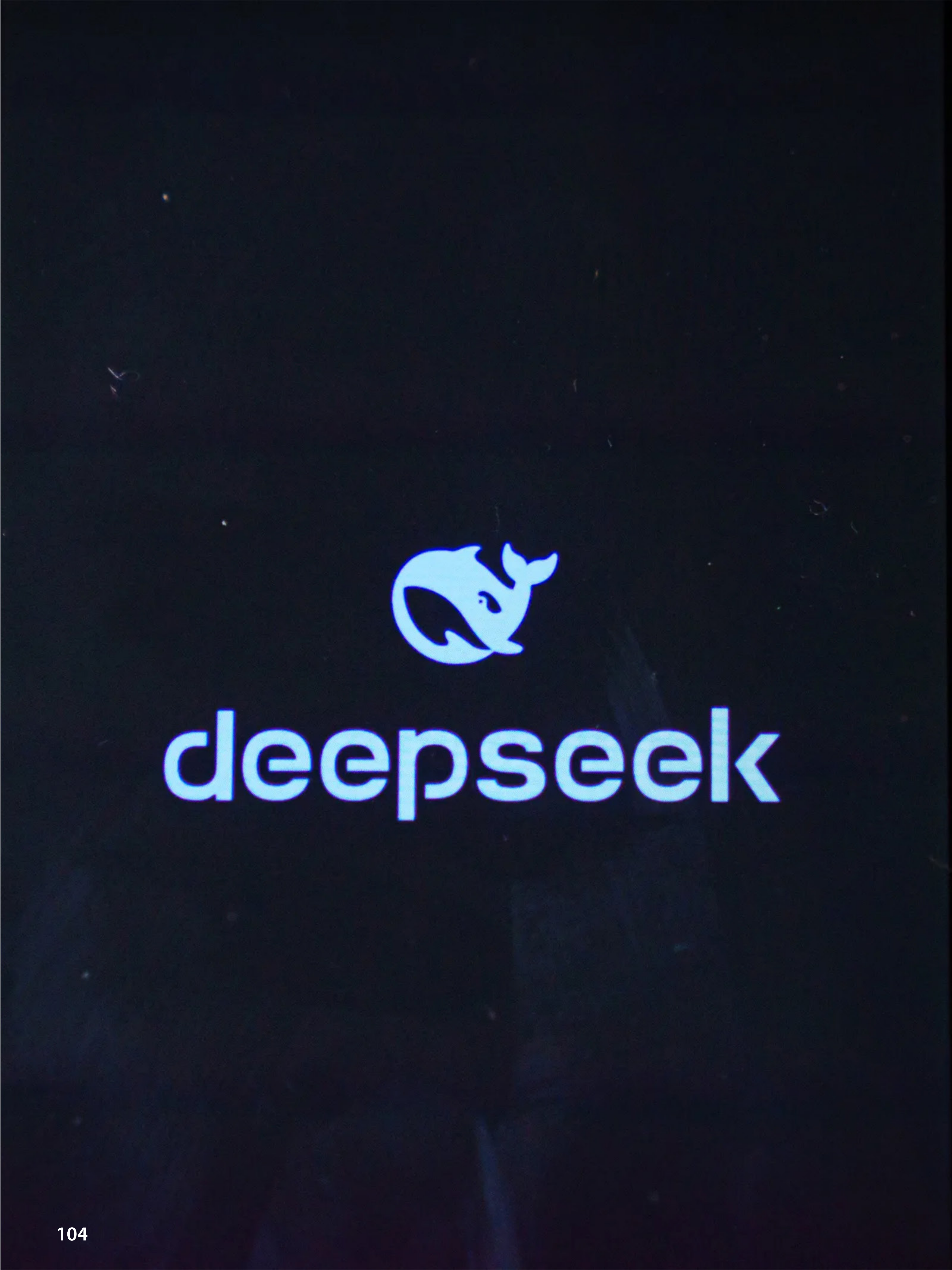
AI AND PRIVACY/SURVEILLANCE

Advances in AI-powered data processing have made data privacy "even more imperative as a safeguard for the dignity and relational nature" of individuals, the document said.

"The risk of surveillance overreach must be monitored by appropriate regulators to ensure transparency and public accountability," it said.

AI AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The document underlined that while AI can help fight climate change through models to forecast extreme events, help manage emergencies and help promote sustainable development, it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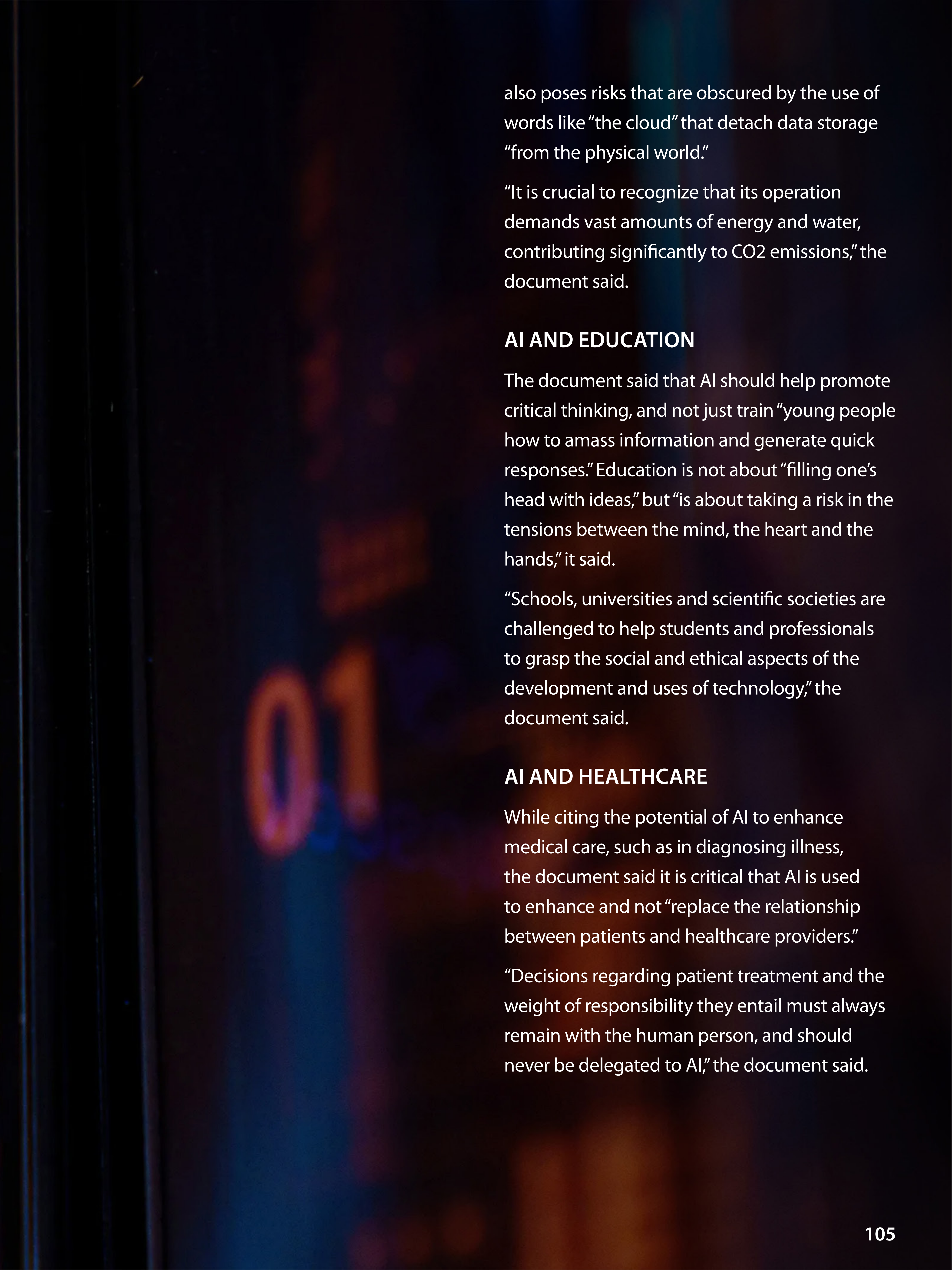


also poses risks that are obscured by the use of words like "the cloud" that detach data storage "from the physical world."

"It is crucial to recognize that its operation demands vast amounts of energy and water, contributing significantly to CO2 emissions," the document said.

AI AND EDUCATION

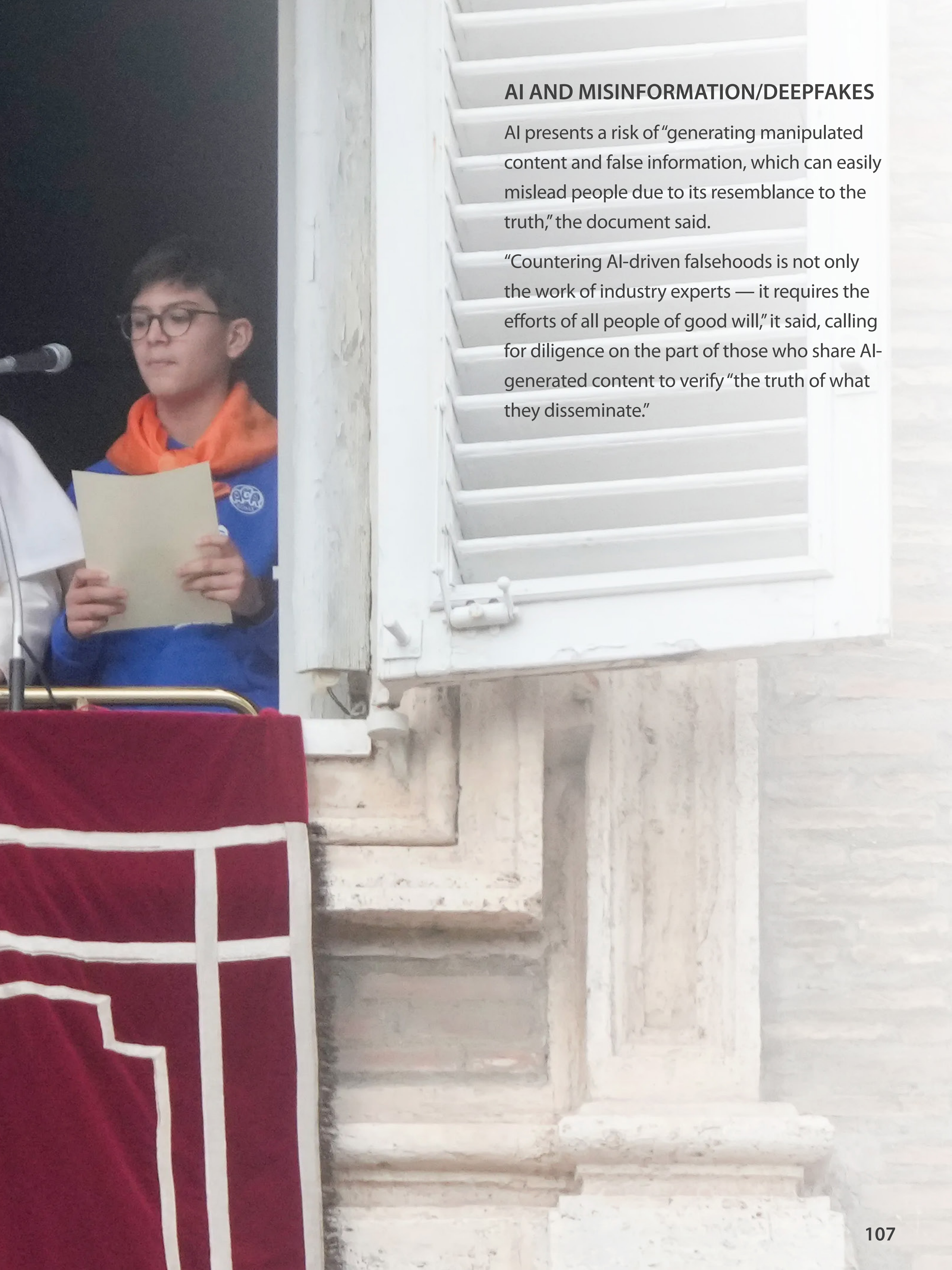
The document said that AI should help promote critical thinking, and not just train "young people how to amass information and generate quick responses." Education is not about "filling one's head with ideas," but "is about taking a risk in the tensions between the mind, the heart and the hands," it said.

"Schools, universities and scientific societies are challenged to help students and professionals to grasp the social and ethical aspects of the development and uses of technology," the document said.

AI AND HEALTHCARE

While citing the potential of AI to enhance medical care, such as in diagnosing illness, the document said it is critical that AI is used to enhance and not "replace the relationship between patients and healthcare providers."

"Decisions regarding patient treatment and the weight of responsibility they entail must always remain with the human person, and should never be delegated to AI," the document said.



AI AND MISINFORMATION/DEEPFAKES

AI presents a risk of "generating manipulated content and false information, which can easily mislead people due to its resemblance to the truth," the document said.

"Countering AI-driven falsehoods is not only the work of industry experts — it requires the efforts of all people of good will," it said, calling for diligence on the part of those who share AI-generated content to verify "the truth of what they disseminate."

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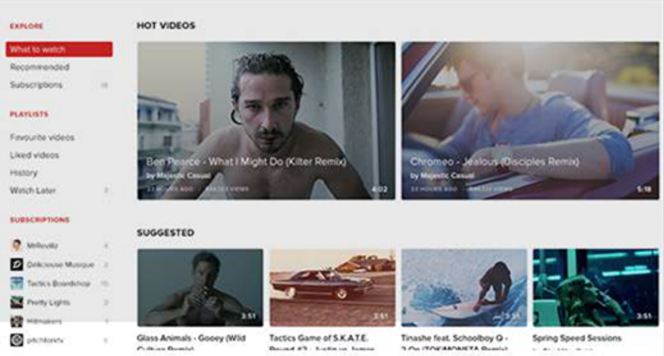

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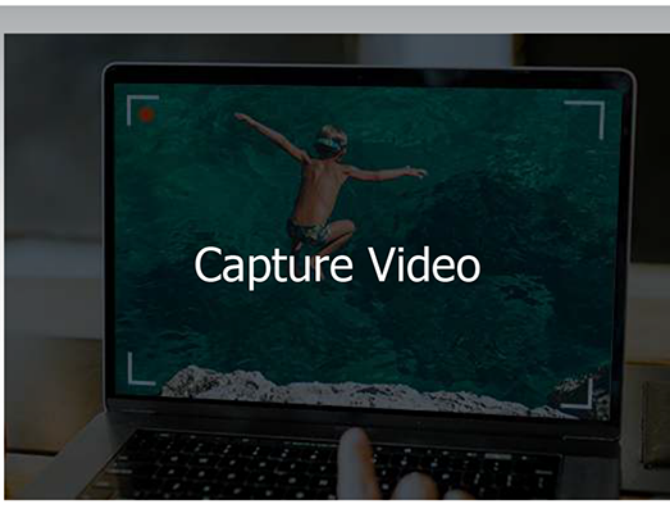

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NVIDIA FACES A RECKONING AS AN UPSTART RIVAL RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT WALL STREET'S DARLING

The superstar run for Nvidia's stock the last few years has been astonishing. So was its tumble Monday, which caused $595 billion in wealth to vanish. That's about as much as PepsiCo, McDonalds, Starbucks and Target are worth, combined.

Mostly known only in gaming and crypto circles a few years ago, Nvidia burst into the zeitgeist after seeing its sales surge because customers wanted its chips to train their chatbots and other artificial intelligence products.

Nvidia became a household name as its stock more than tripled in 2023 and then more than

doubled in 2024. Investors and analysts lauded CEO Jensen Huang as the "Godfather of AI." Nvidia grew into a $3 trillion-plus behemoth and traded places with titans like Apple to become the most valuable company on Wall Street.

But that all came to a screeching halt Monday, at least for a moment, after a Chinese upstart called DeepSeek said it had developed a large-language model that could perform like ChatGPT and other U.S. rivals, but by using far less computing power.

Here's a look at how it all got to this point:

HOW DID IT BECOME A MARKET DARLING?

Nvidia's roots began in gaming.

The Santa Clara, California-based tech company's invention of the graphics processor unit, or GPU, in 1999 helped spark the growth of the PC gaming market and redefined computer graphics. Now Nvidia's specialized chips are key components that help power different forms of artificial intelligence, including the latest generative AI chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google's Gemini.

Huang has dubbed AI "the next industrial revolution," and Nvidia's GPUs are designed to perform artificial intelligence tasks faster and more efficiently than general-purpose chips like CPUs. Tech giants are snapping up Nvidia chips as they wade deeper into AI — a movement that's enabling cars to drive by themselves, and generating stories, art and music.

The demand helped Nvidia's revenue grow by eye-popping levels, quarter after quarter. On Feb. 23, 2023, after Nvidia breezed past analysts' expectations for quarterly profit, Huang said

IDIA

that "AI is at an inflection point, setting up for broad adoption reaching into every industry." The company's quarterly revenue at the time was $6.05 billion.

That ramped up to $7.19 billion just three months later and then nearly doubled to $13.51 billion three months after that. Revenue has since vaulted to $35.08 billion in the three months through October 2024.

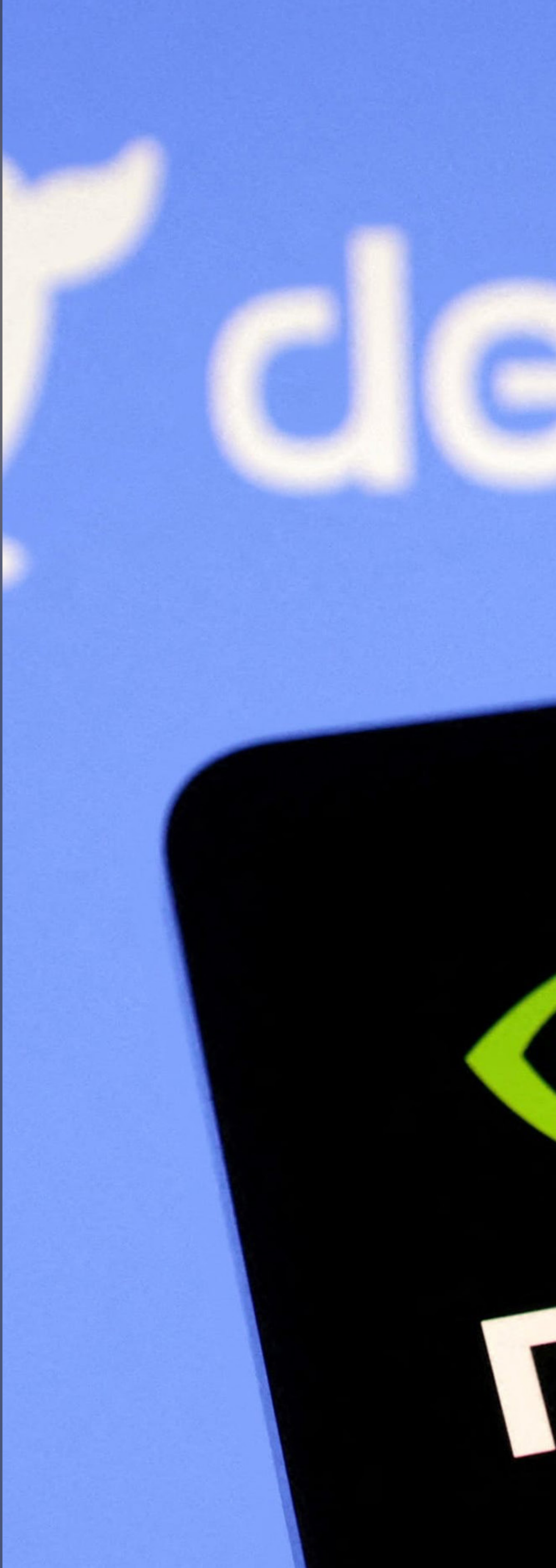
The company's stock price has similarly soared, and its total market value quickly passed rivals like Intel, Microsoft and others. Nvidia alone accounted for more than a fifth of all of the S&P 500 index's total return last year. No other stock came close, and it had more than triple Apple's impact.

Buy an S&P 500 index fund today, and nearly 6 cents out of every $1 will go only into Nvidia. That leaves 94 cents for all the other 499 companies.

IS IT STILL A DARLING?

Unlike the dot-com boom, real money was behind Nvidia's surge, and its stock price rose on expectations of ever more to come. Those expectations came into question on Monday.

DeepSeek and its seemingly lower-cost operations raised worries about whether companies would need to spend as many dollars on Nvidia chips as previously thought. The concerns dragged down stocks across the AI industry, including suppliers to the chip industry and the power companies hoping to electrify the vast data centers that were expected to get built to run those chips. But Nvidia was in the spotlight because its stock has become the brightest symbol of the AI bonanza.



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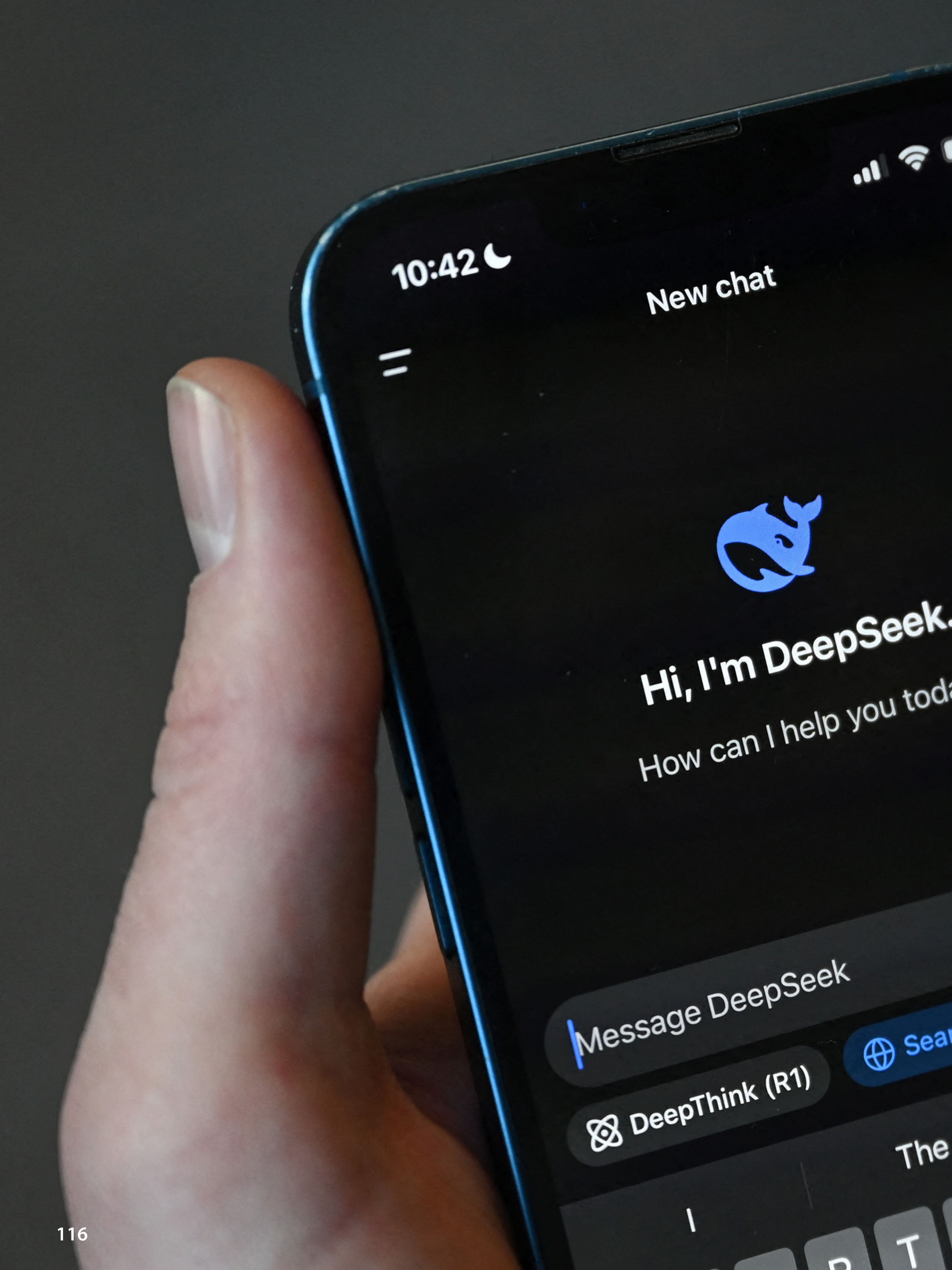
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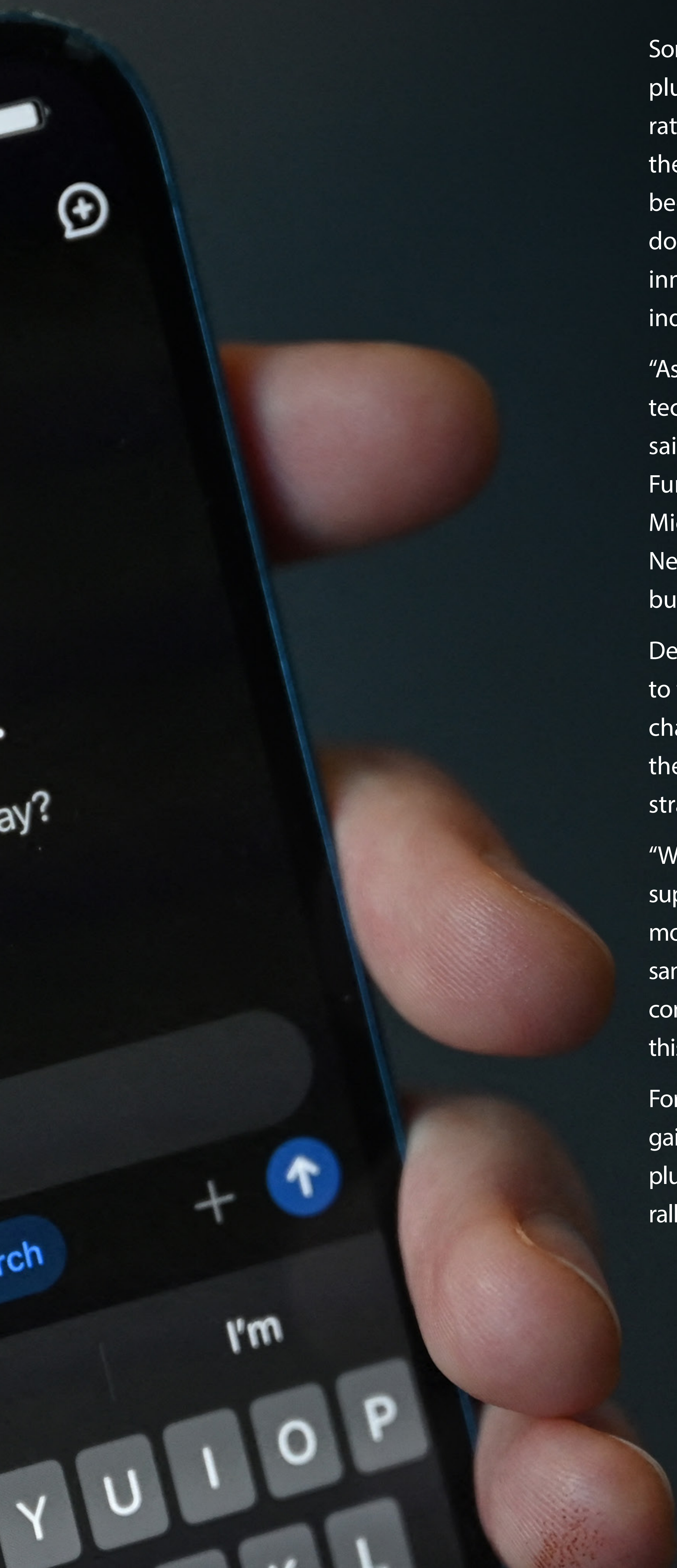


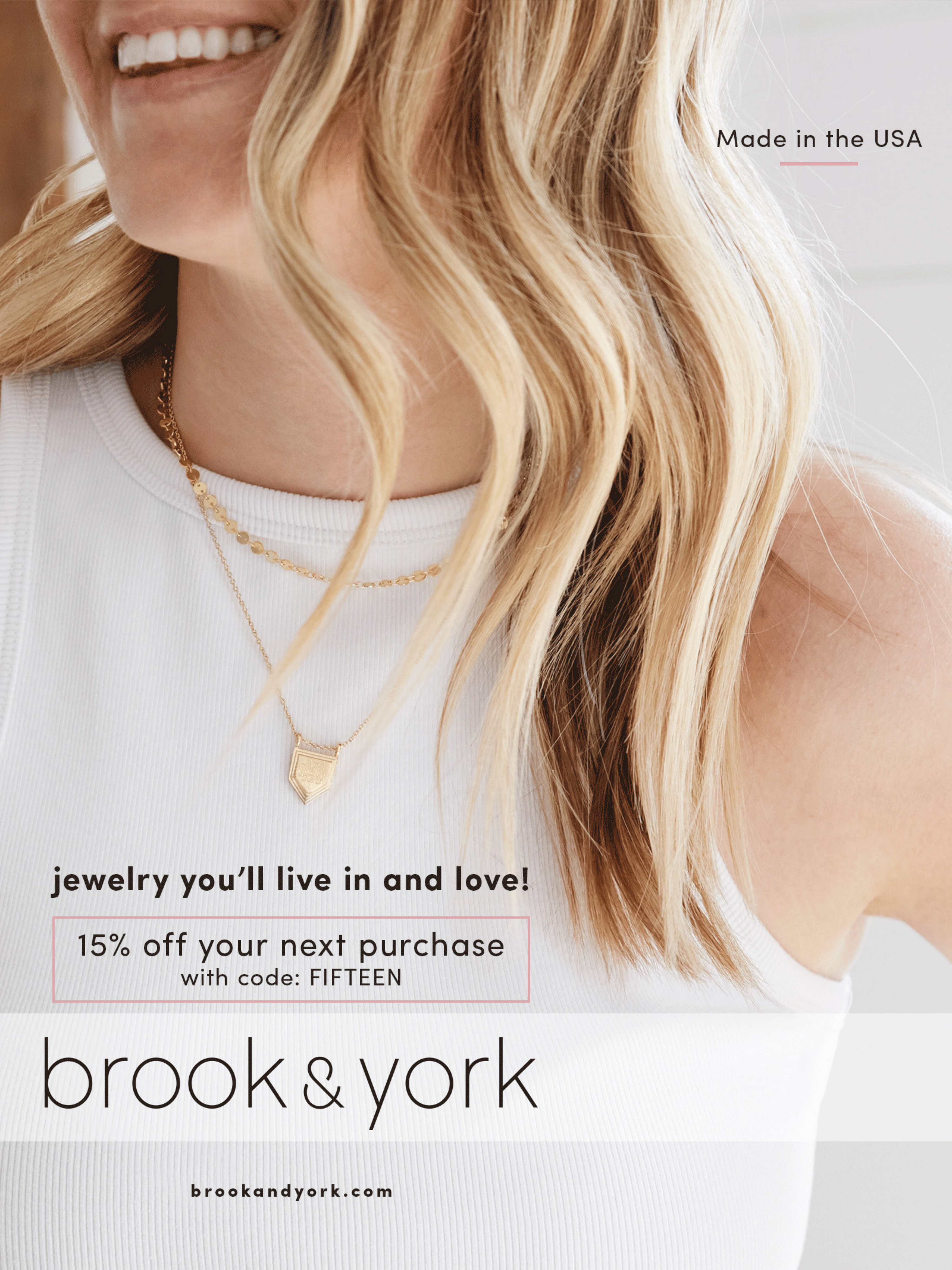
Some on Wall Street saw Monday's nearly 17% plunge for Nvidia's stock as an opportunity rather than a signal of pending doom, saying the stock became more affordable. If AI does become cheaper to run, it could open the door to new kinds of customers and software innovations that could ultimately help the industry in the long term.

"As for Nvidia itself, this isn't the first time a major tech stock has faced existential questions," said John Belton, portfolio manager at Gabelli Funds. "We've seen similar situations with Microsoft, Apple, Meta, Google, Amazon, and Netflix — companies that were once doubted but ultimately rebounded."

DeepSeek's entrance certainly adds uncertainty to the entire AI ecosystem, but it doesn't change the overwhelming momentum behind the movement, according to Brian Colello, strategist at Morningstar.

"We believe that AI GPU demand still exceeds supply," he wrote in a report. "So, while slimmer models may enable greater development for the same number of chips, we still think tech firms will continue to buy all the GPUs they can as part of this AI 'gold rush.'"

For its part, Nvidia's stock wobbled between gains and losses early Tuesday following its worst plunge since the 2020 COVID crash, and then rallied a bit and ended the day nearly 9% higher.



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TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER ON DEVELOPING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ‘FREE FROM IDEOLOGICAL BIAS’

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on artificial intelligence that will revoke past government policies his order says “act as barriers to American AI innovation.”

To maintain global leadership in AI technology, “we must develop AI systems that are free from ideological bias or engineered social agendas,” Trump’s order says.

The new order doesn’t name which existing policies are hindering AI development but sets out to track down and review “all policies,

Image: Ben Curtis

directives, regulations, orders, and other actions taken" as a result of former President Joe Biden's sweeping AI executive order of 2023, which Trump rescinded this week. Any of those Biden-era actions must be suspended if they don't fit Trump's new directive that AI should "promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security."

Last year, the Biden administration issued a policy directive that said U.S. federal agencies must show their artificial intelligence tools aren't harming the public, or stop using them. Trump's order directs the White House to revise and reissue those directives, which affect how agencies acquire AI tools and use them.

Biden's executive order, the Trump administration said, "established unnecessarily burdensome requirements for companies developing and deploying AI that would stifle private sector innovation and threaten American technological leadership."

Trump's order also calls for the development of an AI action plan within 180 days. Leading the work will be a small group of White House tech and science officials, including a new Special Advisor for AI and Crypto — a role Trump has given to venture capitalist and former PayPal executive David Sacks.

Trump repealed Biden's 2023 guardrails for fast-developing AI technology just hours after returning to the White House on Monday.

The new actions threaten to erase some of the Biden administration's efforts -- championed by then-Vice President Kamala Harris -- to curb government use of the kinds of AI tools that

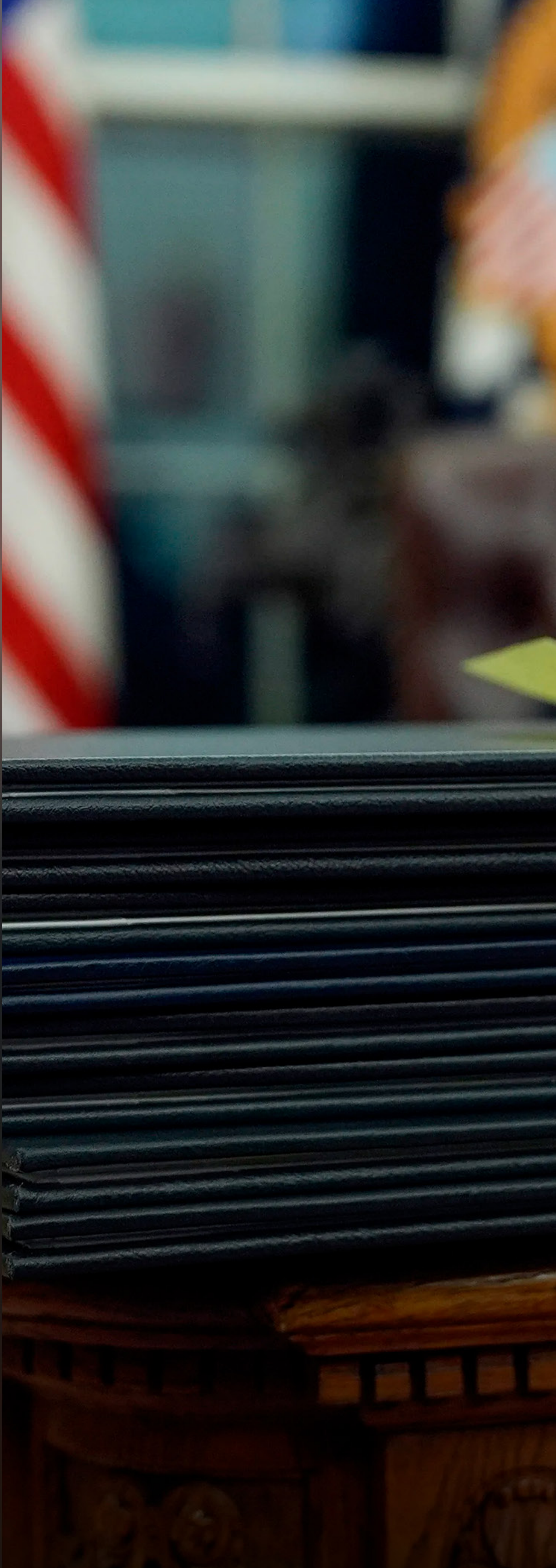


Image: Evan Vucci

have been found to unfairly discriminate based on race, gender or disability, from medical diagnosis chatbots spouting false information to face recognition technology tied to wrongful arrests of Black men.

Until this week, it wasn't clear if Trump planned to replace Biden's signature AI policy with his own order. Trump had also signed executive orders on AI in his previous term, including a 2019 order directing federal agencies to prioritize research and development in AI that is still on the books.

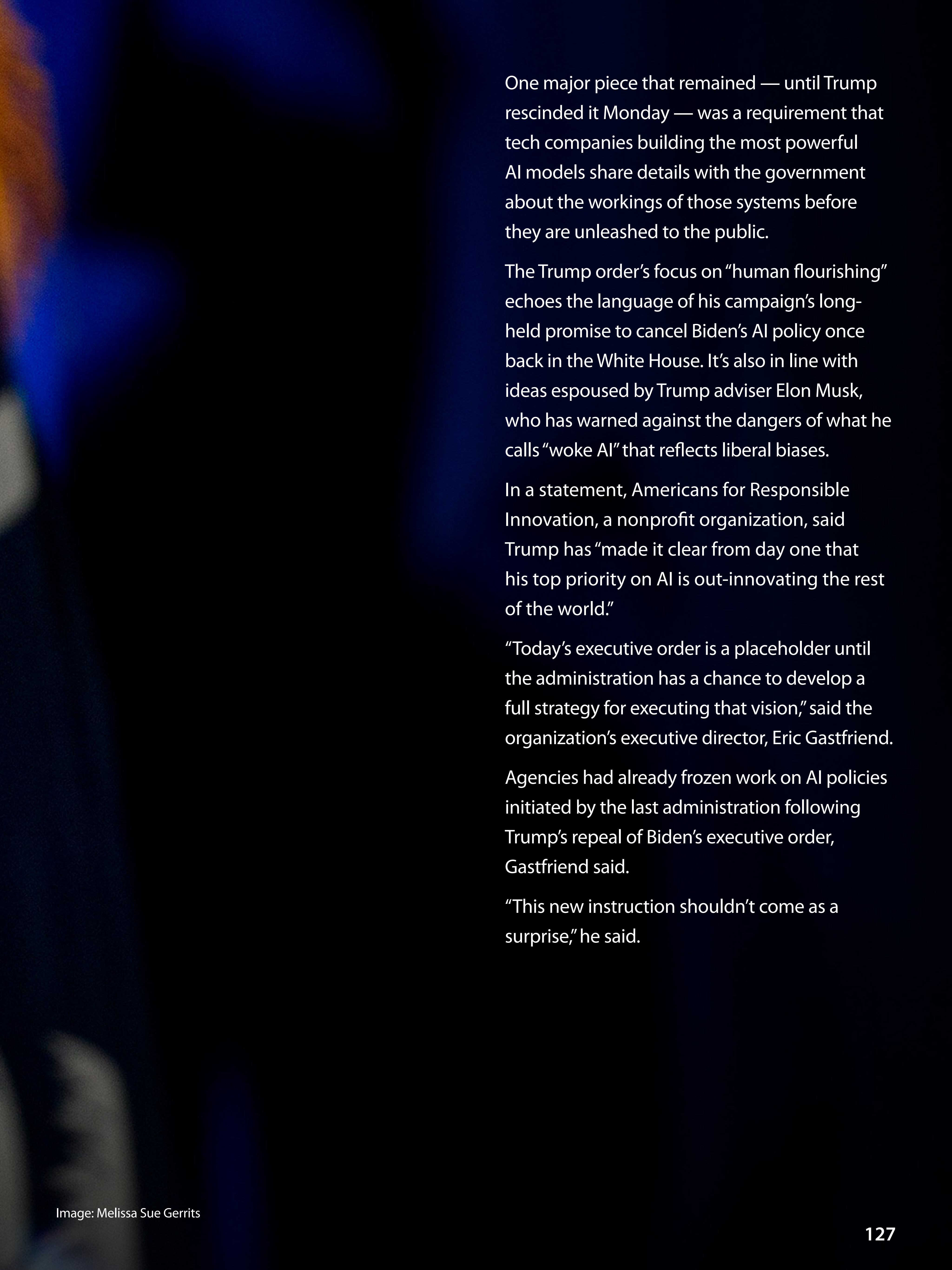
Alondra Nelson, former acting director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy under Biden, said Trump's order seemed "backward looking" because agencies would be tasked with reviewing initiatives "that are already helping people, with an implicit intent to unwind them."

The Biden administration's AI policies, she added, were aimed at protecting both innovation and the public.

"In 60 days, we'll know which Americans' rights and safety the Trump Administration believes deserves to be protected in the age of AI, and if there will be a level playing field for every technologist, developer, and innovator or just the tech billionaires," Nelson said.

Much of Biden's 2023 order set in motion a sprint across government agencies to study AI's impact on everything from cybersecurity risks to its effects on education, workplaces and public benefits, with an eye on ensuring AI tools weren't harming people. That work is largely done.

Image: Damon Winter



One major piece that remained — until Trump rescinded it Monday — was a requirement that tech companies building the most powerful AI models share details with the government about the workings of those systems before they are unleashed to the public.

The Trump order's focus on "human flourishing" echoes the language of his campaign's long-held promise to cancel Biden's AI policy once back in the White House. It's also in line with ideas espoused by Trump adviser Elon Musk, who has warned against the dangers of what he calls "woke AI" that reflects liberal biases.

In a statement, Americans for Responsible Innovation, a nonprofit organization, said Trump has "made it clear from day one that his top priority on AI is out-innovating the rest of the world."

"Today's executive order is a placeholder until the administration has a chance to develop a full strategy for executing that vision," said the organization's executive director, Eric Gastfriend.

Agencies had already frozen work on AI policies initiated by the last administration following Trump's repeal of Biden's executive order, Gastfriend said.

"This new instruction shouldn't come as a surprise," he said.

Image: Melissa Sue Gerrits

AI-ASSISTED WORKS CAN GET COPYRIGHT WITH ENOUGH HUMAN CREATIVITY, SAYS US COPYRIGHT OFFICE

Artists can copyright works they made with the help of artificial intelligence, according to a new report by the U.S. Copyright Office that could help clear the way for the use of AI tools in Hollywood, the music industry and other creative fields.

The nation's copyright office, which sits in the Library of Congress and is not part of the executive branch, receives about half a million copyright applications per year covering millions of individual works. It has increasingly been asked to register works that are AI-generated.

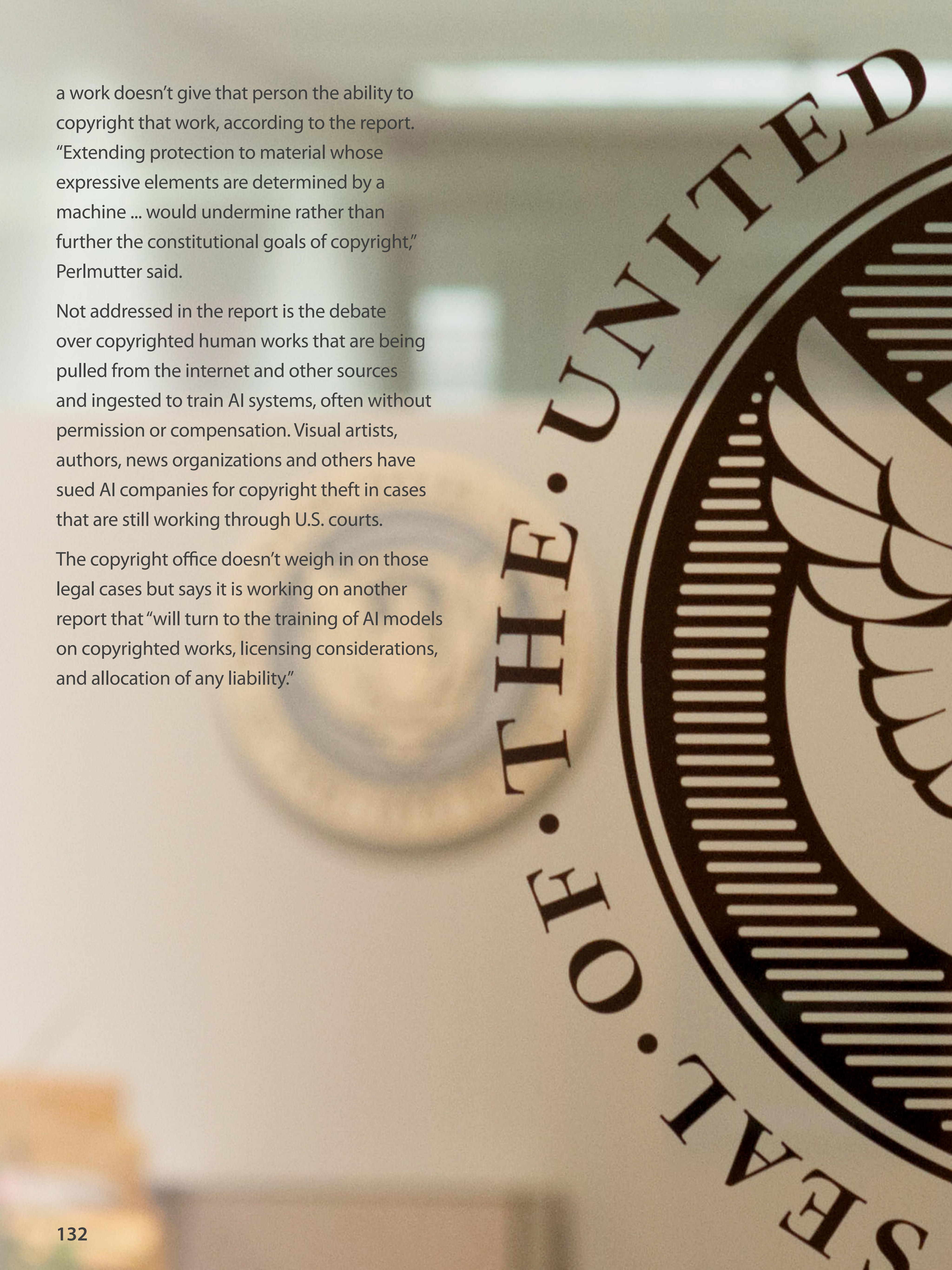
And while many of those decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, the report issued Wednesday clarifies the office's approach as one based on what the top U.S. copyright official describes as the "centrality of human creativity" in authoring a work that warrants copyright protections.

"Where that creativity is expressed through the use of AI systems, it continues to enjoy protection," said a statement from Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter, who directs the office.

An AI-assisted work could be copyrightable if an artist's handiwork is perceptible, or an AI-generated work include a human's "creative arrangements or modifications."

The report follows a review that began in 2023 and fielded opinions from thousands of people that ranged from AI developers, to actors and country singers.

It shows the copyright office will continue to reject copyright claims for fully machine-generated content. A person simply prompting a chatbot or AI image generator to produce



a work doesn't give that person the ability to copyright that work, according to the report. "Extending protection to material whose expressive elements are determined by a machine ... would undermine rather than further the constitutional goals of copyright," Perlmutter said.

Not addressed in the report is the debate over copyrighted human works that are being pulled from the internet and other sources and ingested to train AI systems, often without permission or compensation. Visual artists, authors, news organizations and others have sued AI companies for copyright theft in cases that are still working through U.S. courts.

The copyright office doesn't weigh in on those legal cases but says it is working on another report that "will turn to the training of AI models on copyrighted works, licensing considerations, and allocation of any liability."

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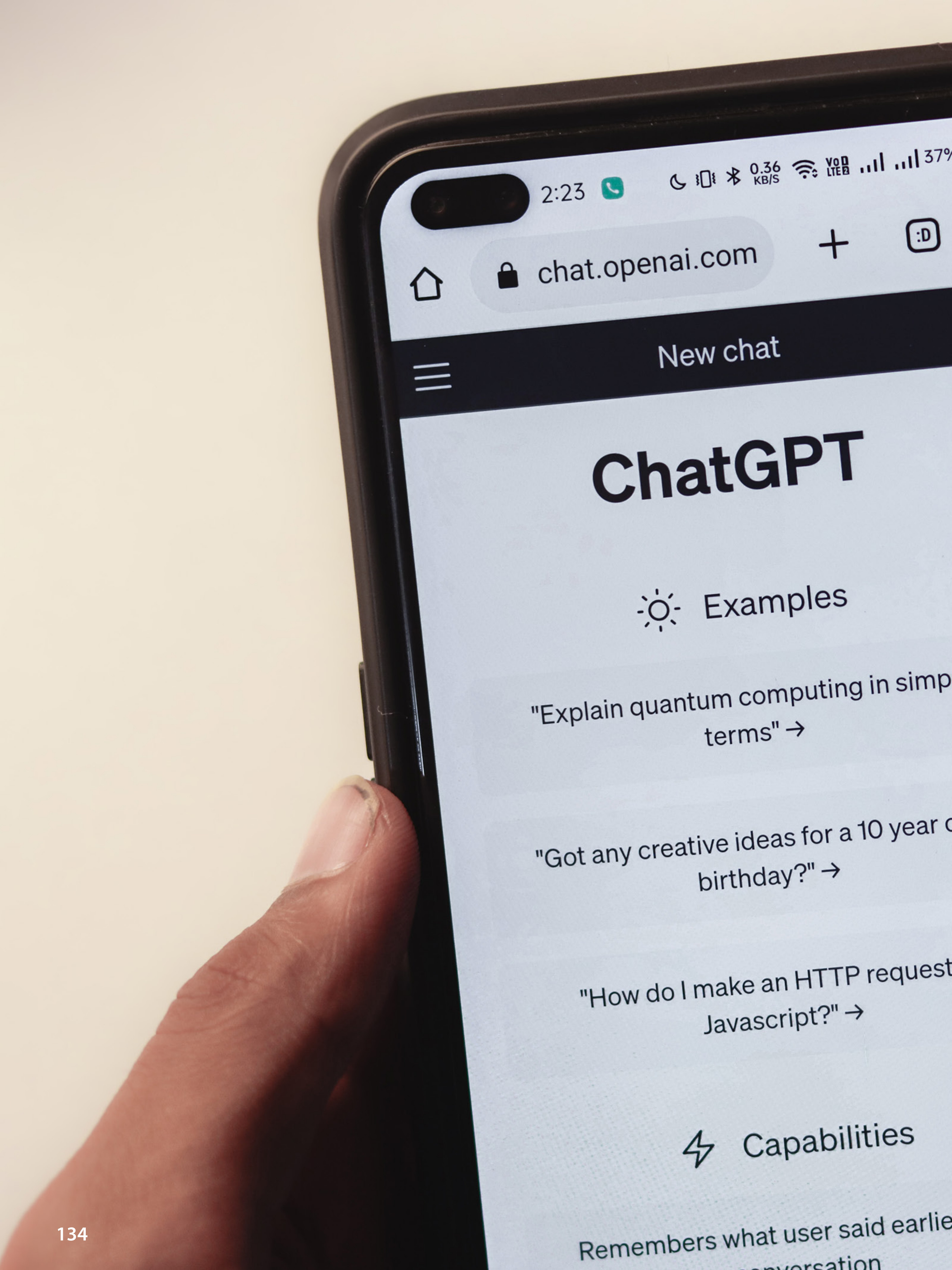


chat.openai.com

New chat

ChatGPT

Examples

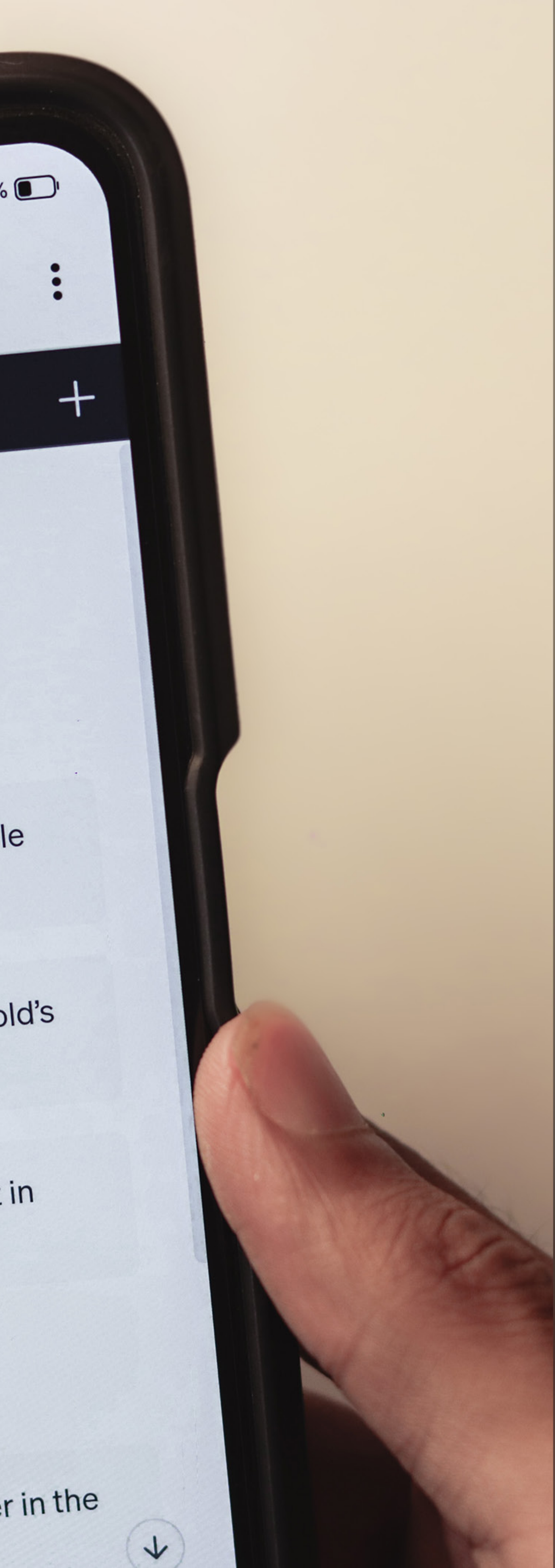
"Explain quantum computing in simp
terms" →

"Got any creative ideas for a 10 year
birthday?" →

"How do I make an HTTP request
Javascript?" →

Capabilities

Remembers what user said earlie



GENERAL PURPOSE AI COULD LEAD TO ARRAY OF NEW RISKS, EXPERTS SAY IN REPORT AHEAD OF AI SUMMIT

Advanced artificial intelligence systems have the potential to create extreme new risks, such as fueling widespread job losses, enabling terrorism or running amok, experts said in a first-of-its-kind international report this week cataloging the range of dangers posed by the technology.

The International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI is being released ahead of a major AI summit in Paris next month. The paper is backed by 30 countries including the U.S. and China, marking rare cooperation between the two countries as they battle over AI supremacy, highlighted by Chinese startup

DeepSeek stunning the world this week with its budget chatbot in spite of U.S. export controls on advanced chips to the country.

The report by a group of independent experts is a "synthesis" of existing research intended to help guide officials working on drawing up guardrails for the rapidly advancing technology, Yoshua Bengio, a prominent AI scientist who led the study, told in an interview.

"The stakes are high," the report says, noting that while a few years ago the best AI systems could barely spit out a coherent paragraph, now they can write computer programs, generate realistic images and hold extended conversations.

While some AI harms are already widely known, such as deepfakes, scams and biased results, the report said that "as general-purpose AI becomes more capable, evidence of additional risks is gradually emerging" and risk management techniques are only in their early stages.

It comes amid warnings this week about artificial intelligence from the Vatican and the group behind the Doomsday Clock.

The report focuses on general purpose AI, typified by chatbots such as OpenAI's ChatGPT used to carry out many different kinds of tasks. The risks fall into three categories: malicious use, malfunctions and widespread "systemic" risks.

Bengio, who with two other AI pioneers won computer science's top prize in 2019, said the 100 experts who came together on the report don't all agree on what to expect from AI in the future. Among the biggest disagreements within the AI research community is the timing of when the fast-developing technology will surpass human capabilities across a variety of tasks and what that will mean.

“They disagree also about the scenarios,” Bengio said. “Of course, nobody has a crystal ball. Some scenarios are very beneficial. Some are terrifying. I think it’s really important for policymakers and the public to take stock of that uncertainty.”

Researchers delved into the details surrounding possible dangers. AI makes it easier, for example, to learn how to create biological or chemical weapons because AI models can provide step by step plans. But it’s “unclear how well they capture the practical challenges” of weaponizing and delivering the agents, it said.

General purpose AI is also likely to transform a range of jobs and “displace workers,” the report says, noting that some researchers believe it could create more jobs than it takes away, while others think it will drive down wages or employment rates, though there’s plenty of uncertainty over how it will play out.

AI systems could also run out of control, either because they actively undermine human oversight or humans pay less attention, the report said.

However, a raft of factors make it hard to manage the risks, including AI developers knowing little about how their models work, the authors said.

The paper was commissioned at an inaugural global summit on AI safety hosted by Britain in November 2023, where nations agreed to work together to contain potentially “catastrophic risks.” At a follow-up meeting

★ 4.6
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详情
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DeepSeek-V3 驱动

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DeepSeek

AI 搜索写作阅读解题翻译工具

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8.77M
包大小

安全
应用检测 >

12岁
年龄分

评论108

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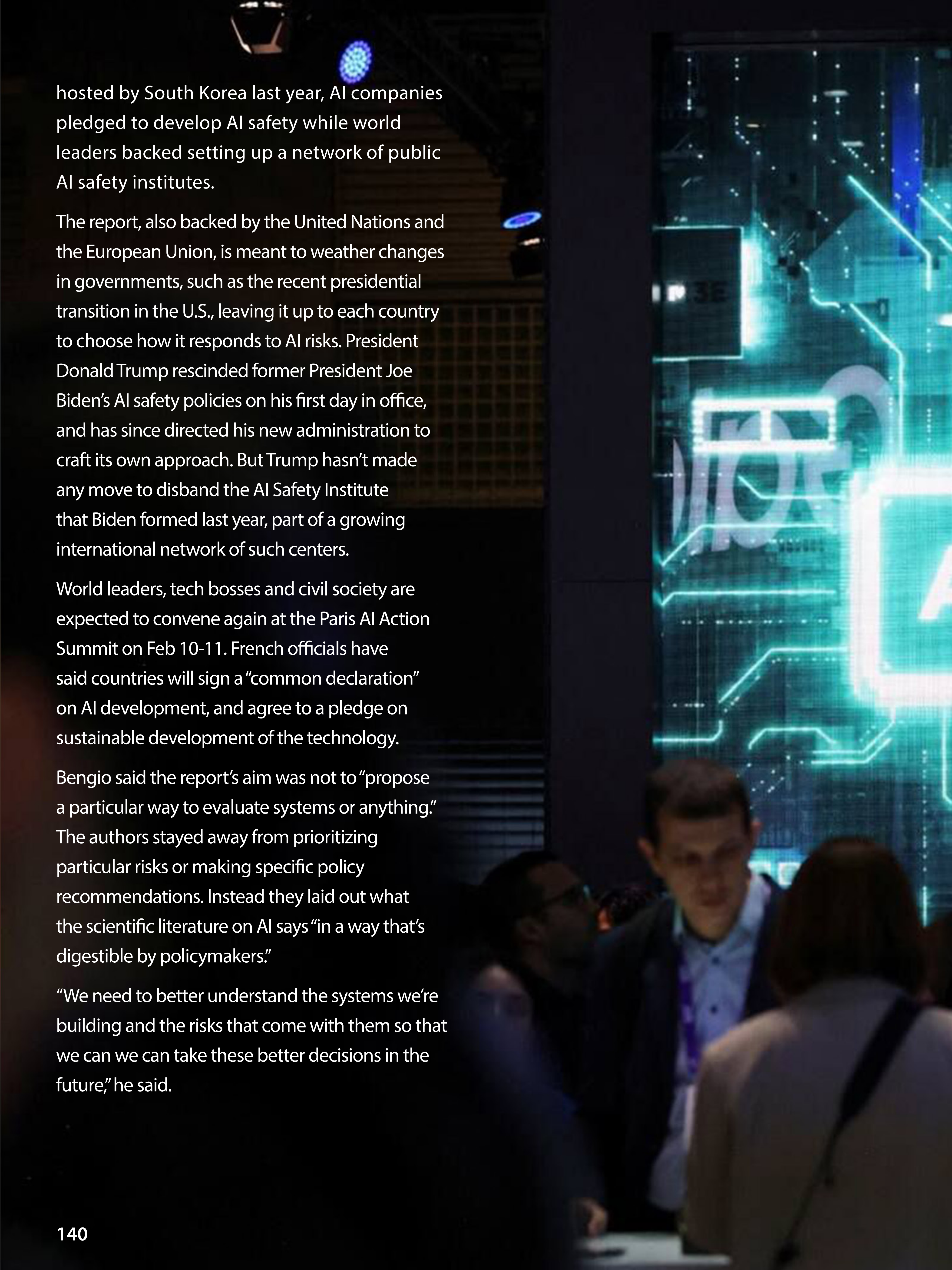
高智商模型，顺滑对话体验



hosted by South Korea last year, AI companies pledged to develop AI safety while world leaders backed setting up a network of public AI safety institutes.

The report, also backed by the United Nations and the European Union, is meant to weather changes in governments, such as the recent presidential transition in the U.S., leaving it up to each country to choose how it responds to AI risks. President Donald Trump rescinded former President Joe Biden's AI safety policies on his first day in office, and has since directed his new administration to craft its own approach. But Trump hasn't made any move to disband the AI Safety Institute that Biden formed last year, part of a growing international network of such centers.

World leaders, tech bosses and civil society are expected to convene again at the Paris AI Action Summit on Feb 10-11. French officials have said countries will sign a "common declaration" on AI development, and agree to a pledge on sustainable development of the technology.

Bengio said the report's aim was not to "propose a particular way to evaluate systems or anything." The authors stayed away from prioritizing particular risks or making specific policy recommendations. Instead they laid out what the scientific literature on AI says "in a way that's digestible by policymakers."

"We need to better understand the systems we're building and the risks that come with them so that we can we can take these better decisions in the future," he said.

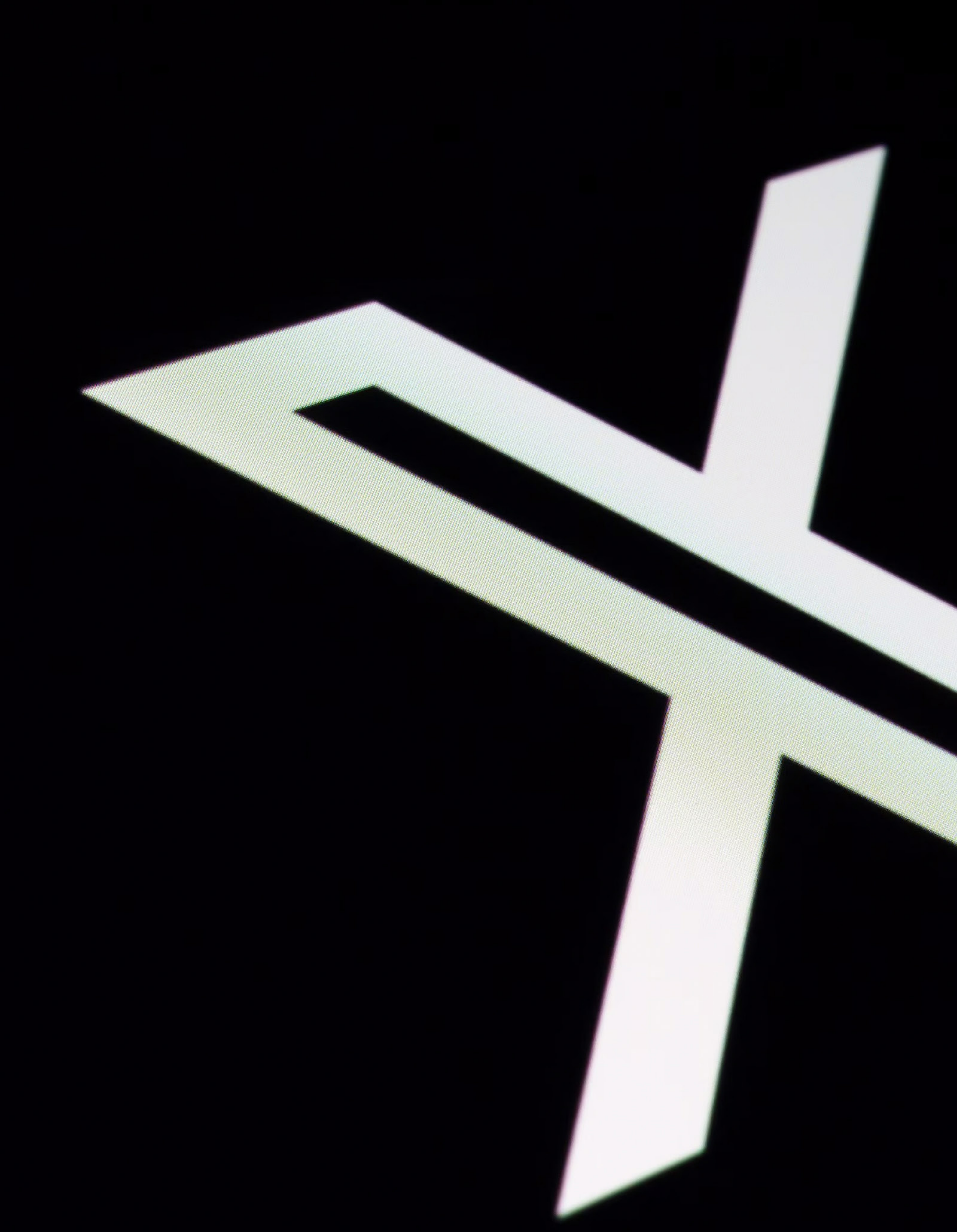
SAPEON
AI
TEL

ELON MUSK'S X PARTNERS WITH VISA ON PAYMENT SERVICE IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME AN 'EVERYTHING APP'

X is teaming up with Visa to soon offer a system for real-time payments on the social media platform — signaling some progress in a yearslong vision from billionaire owner Elon Musk to create an "everything app."

Visa is the first partner for the platform's "X Money Account" service, which is set to launch later this year, X CEO Linda Yaccarino said in a Tuesday post announcing the news.

VISA
Signature



The offering, Yaccarino noted, will support an in-platform digital wallet and peer-to-peer payments connected to users' debit cards, with an option to transfer funds to a bank account.

According to Visa, which also posted about the partnership on X Tuesday, these services will be powered by Visa Direct — the payment giant's instant money transferring service — and will be available to X Money Account users in the U.S.

Whether X Money will become available to consumers in other countries, and perhaps through additional payment partners in the near future is still known. And an exact date for the U.S. launch has also not been announced yet.

In her post Tuesday, Yaccarino called the partnership with Visa a "milestone for the Everything App" and the "first of many big announcements about X Money this year."

The prospect of San Francisco-based X, formerly known as Twitter, becoming an "everything app" has been floated around for some time. Before officially closing the deal to purchase the platform for $44 billion back in 2022, Musk expressed interest in creating his own version of something similar to China's WeChat — a "super app" that does video chats, messaging, streaming and payments.

And his fascination with such a platform began long before the Twitter deal was on the table. Musk has been toying with the idea of an "everything app" since the late 1990s when he launched a startup called X.com that was later merged into what became X.com. He continued to push for PayPal to diversify but was rebuffed by company CEO Peter Thiel and other executives. PayPal was sold in 2002 to eBay for

$1.5 billion — providing Musk with a windfall that he funneled into the creation of SpaceX and an investment in Tesla in its early days.

The landscape is far more competitive today — with a handful of companies making similar efforts to expand their in-platform offerings. Other social media giants, such as Facebook parent Meta, have added shopping, games and even dating features.

Consumers now have different platforms at their disposal for communications, payment services, entertainment and more. How X's coming "everything" features will fare has yet to be seen. Since Musk's 2022 takeover, the platform has already alienated many users and advertisers over reports of rising hate speech and misinformation.

X's ambitions could also thrust the company into the crosshairs of other powerful tech giants trying to fend off a perceived competitive threat. U.S. regulators have alleged that Apple, for example, has been illegally using its market power to stifle so-called super apps from making their way onto its iPhone since 2017.

As part of an antitrust lawsuit filed last year, the U.S. Justice Department said it had uncovered evidence showing that Apple believed a super app would lessen consumers' usage of the iPhone's own software and services, including payment processing. The Cupertino, California, company has vehemently denied the allegations and is trying to persuade a federal judge in New Jersey to dismiss the entire case.

ARE WE ALL ALIENS? NASA'S RETURNED ASTEROID SAMPLES HOLD THE INGREDIENTS OF LIFE FROM A WATERY WORLD

Asteroid samples fetched by NASA hold not only the pristine building blocks for life but also the salty remains of an ancient water world, scientists reported this week.

The findings provide the strongest evidence yet that asteroids may have planted the seeds of life on Earth and that these ingredients were mingling with water almost right from the start.

"That's the kind of environment that could have been essential to the steps that lead from elements to life," said the Smithsonian Institution's Tim McCoy, one of the lead study authors.

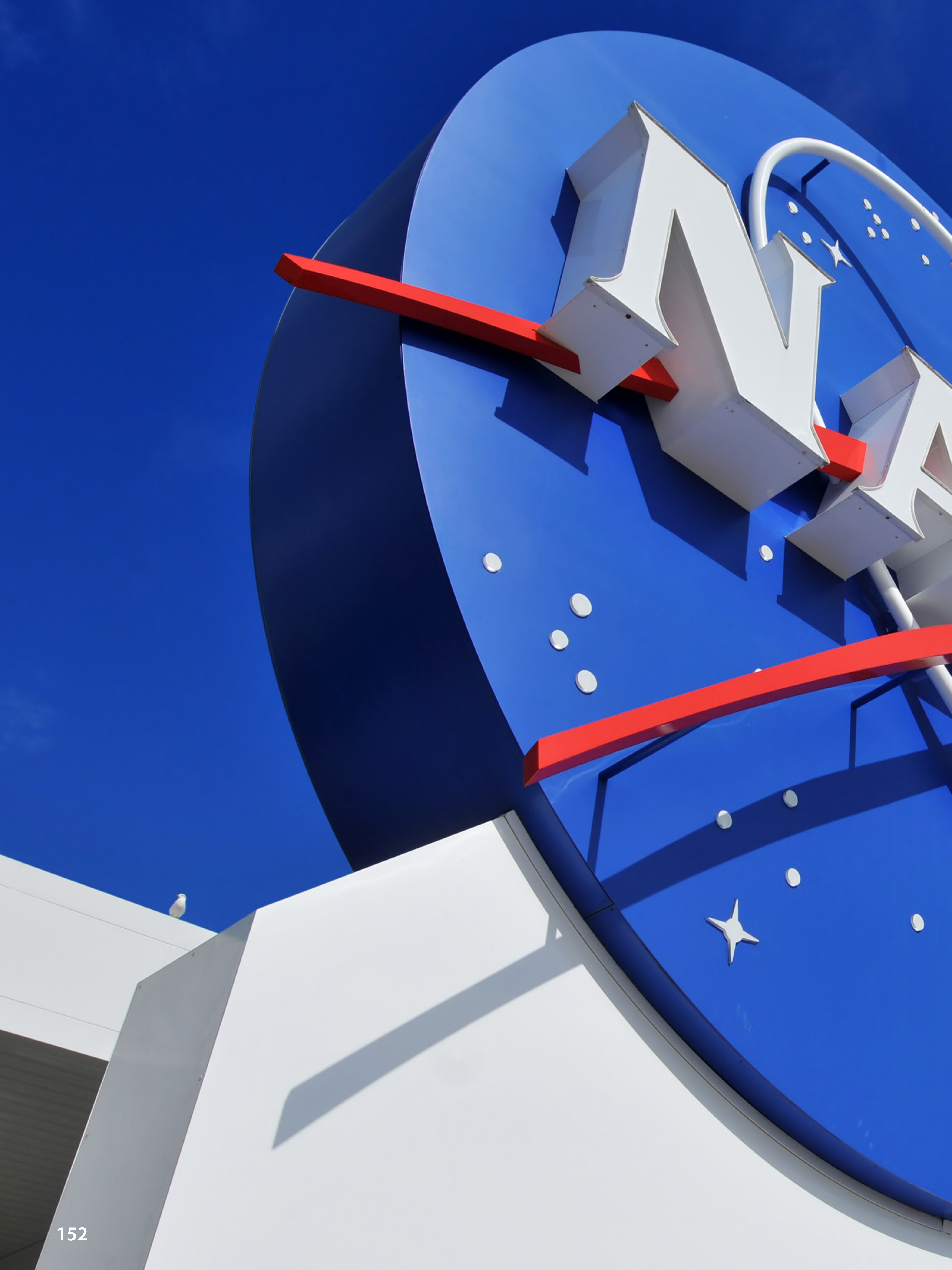
NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft returned 122 grams (4 ounces) of dust and pebbles from the near-Earth asteroid Bennu, delivering the sample canister to the Utah desert in 2023 before swooping off after another space rock. It remains the biggest cosmic haul from beyond the moon. The two previous asteroid sample missions, by Japan, yielded considerably less material.

Small amounts of Bennu's precious black grains — leftovers from the solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago — were doled out to the two separate research teams whose studies appeared in the journals Nature and Nature Astronomy. But it was more than enough to tease out the sodium-rich minerals and confirm the presence of amino acids, nitrogen in the form of ammonia and even parts of the genetic code.

Some if not all of the delicate salts found at Bennu — similar to what's in the dry lakebeds of California's Mojave Desert and Africa's Sahara — would be stripped away if present in falling meteorites.

"This discovery was only possible by analyzing samples that were collected directly from the asteroid then carefully preserved back on Earth," the Institute of Science Tokyo's Yasuhito Sekine, who was not involved in the studies, said in an accompanying editorial.

Combining the ingredients of life with an environment of sodium-rich salt water, or brines, "that's really the pathway to life," said McCoy, the National Museum of Natural History's curator of meteorites. "These processes probably occurred much earlier and were much more widespread than we had thought before."



NASA's Daniel Glavin said one of the biggest surprises was the relatively high abundance of nitrogen, including ammonia. While all of the organic molecules found in the Bennu samples have been identified before in meteorites, Glavin said the ones from Bennu are valid — "real extraterrestrial organic material formed in space and not a result of contamination from Earth."

Bennu — a rubble pile just one-third of a mile (one-half of a kilometer) across — was originally part of a much larger asteroid that got clobbered by other space rocks. The latest results suggest this parent body had an extensive underground network of lakes or even oceans, and that the water evaporated away, leaving behind the salty clues.

Sixty labs around the world are analyzing bits of Bennu as part of initial studies, said the University of Arizona's Dante Lauretta, the mission's chief scientist who took part in both studies.

Most of the $1 billion mission's cache has been set aside for future analysis. Scientists stress more testing is needed to better understand the Bennu samples, as well as more asteroid and comet sample returns. China plans to launch an asteroid sample return mission this year.

Many are pushing for a mission to collect rocks and dirt from the potentially waterlogged dwarf planet Ceres in the main asteroid belt. Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Enceladus also beckon as enticing water worlds. Meanwhile, NASA has core samples awaiting pickup at Mars, but their delivery is on hold while the space agency studies the quickest and cheapest way to get them here.

"Are we alone?" McCoy said. "That's one of the questions we're trying to answer."

The Bachelor

TOP 10 TV SHOWS

COUNTING COUP
Yellowstone

GIVE THE WORLD AWAY
Yellowstone

DESIRE IS ALL YOU NEED
Yellowstone

BITCH, I'M A DRAG QUEEN!
RuPaul's Drag Race

LIFE IS A PROMISE
Yellowstone

THREE FIFTY-THREE
Yellowstone

THE APOCALYPSE OF CHANGE
Yellowstone

TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET - JANUARY 25, 2025
Saturday Night Live

2901
The Bachelor

CERTIFIED HATE
Love & Hip Hop: Miami

📷 *Rebecca Yarros*

TOP 10 BOOKS

ONYX STORM
Rebecca Yarros

FOURTH WING
Rebecca Yarros

THE LET THEM THEORY
Mel Robbins

IRON FLAME
Rebecca Yarros

THE OLIGARCH'S DAUGHTER
Joseph Finder

NO PLAN B
Lee Child & Andrew Child

PRESUMED GUILTY
Scott Turow

THE BIG EMPTY
Robert Crais

THE SIRENS' CALL
Chris Hayes

THE TEXAS MURDERS
James Patterson & Andrew Bourelle

📷 *Lola Young*

TOP 10 SONGS

APT.
ROSÉ & Bruno Mars

MESSY
Lola Young

FAT JUICY & WET
Sexyy Red & Bruno Mars

DIE WITH A SMILE
Lady Gaga & Bruno Mars

LOSE CONTROL
Teddy Swims

A BAR SONG (TIPSY)
Shaboozey

DISEASE
Lady Gaga

DIE WITH A SMILE
Lady Gaga & Bruno Mars

LOVE SOMEBODY
Morgan Wallen

SMILE
Morgan Wallen

Kane Brown

TOP 10 ALBUMS

I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING BUT...
Teddy Swims

THE HIGH ROAD
Kane Brown

DEBÍ TIRAR MÁS FOTOS
Bad Bunny

WICKED: THE SOUNDTRACK
Wicked Movie Cast, Cynthia Erivo & Ariana Grande

I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING BUT...
Teddy Swims

GNX
Kendrick Lamar

BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN (PICKIN' UP...)
Jelly Roll

LINGER AWHILE
Samara Joy

GREATEST
Jim Croce

MADE BY THESE MOMENTS
The Red Clay Strays

Lady Gaga

TOP 10 MUSIC VIDEOS

DISEASE
Lady Gaga

DIE WITH A SMILE
Lady Gaga & Bruno Mars

RESIDUALS
Chris Brown

GOD DID!
Sons Of Sunday

APT.
ROSÉ & Bruno Mars

FAT JUICY & WET
Sexyy Red & Bruno Mars

THE SOUND OF SILENCE
Disturbed

HAUNTED
Kane Brown & Jelly Roll

A BAR SONG (TIPSY)...
Shaboozey

HOLY FOREVER (LIVE) [FEAT. CECE WINANS]
Bethel Music & Jenn Johnson

AS SMALL BUSINESSES FACE FIRE DEVASTATION AND TRY TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET, A VARIETY OF AID EXISTS

130
130
L.A. COUNTY FIRE DEPT.

2 HOUR
PARKING
7AM to 6PM
L.A. COUNTY
FIRE DEPT.

Temecula St
16000 W
Muskingum Av
600 N
16060

The fires in California have been devastating for many small business owners and others who saw their homes, businesses or livelihoods go up in smoke.

Raquel "Rockey" Smeir startedMy Friends Café in Sierra Madre, California, in 2021. While the fires spared her building, she dealt with power outages, the mandatory evacuation in the area of staff, customers and the entire community. When she got back to the building, she had to deal with lost revenue, spoiled food and a devastated community.

"Many people may not realize the significant financial strain that a small business like ours faces when dealing with unexpected events," she said. "With payroll, rent, and taxes due, the loss of inventory and revenue from being closed for nearly a week can be financially devastating."

While private fundraising has proliferated on sites like GoFundMe and elsewhere, there's also a variety of aid at the national and local levels for small business owners and other affected by the fires. A freeze on federal loans and grants was announced on Tuesday, but it is unclear if that applies to disaster aid. Applications for disaster aid are still available on the Small Business Administration's website.

The SBA did not return a request for comment.

Typically, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by a disaster, even if there's no physical damage. Those loans can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses that would have been met if not for the disaster. Businesses can apply for loans of up to $2 million.

Disaster loans of up to $500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters also are eligible for up to $100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

Locally, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce created a fund for small businesses affected by the fires. The $1 million fund will give grants ranging from $5,000 to $10,000 to directly support affected small businesses. It will also offer disaster recovery webinars and business advising support.

Another place to turn to are non-profit Community Development Financial Institutions, or CDFIs, which offer grants and loans to small businesses, often at better rates than traditional banks.

That's the option that Smeir turned to. She applied for an SBA loan and two grant programs, but said she doesn't expect to hear back about those until February or March. She did receive a grant from LiftFund, a CDFI headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, for an undisclosed amount, to help get the business back on its feet.

"It's like reopening a new business, but this time with valuable experience and lessons learned," she said.

There is also industry specific aid. Austin Manuel, who owns record store and event space Healing Force of the Universe in Pasadena, California, hasn't applied for any aid yet as he deals with wind damage that blew ash and smoke into his building. He has had to cancel events and postpone music classes.

He plans to look for music industry-specific aid at organizations like MusiCares and Live Nation and is also considering an SBA loan.

“We expect many of our upcoming events to be fundraisers for the community,” he said. “We hope to show up for them as best we can for as long as we can.”

As small business owners assess which aid to apply for, however, its important to be on the alert for scams. Scammers often target the vulnerable. If something looks too good to be true, it probably is. Owners should be careful when sharing information.

“Small businesses in situations like this are always targeted by predatory lending, those looking to exploit businesses with type of cash flow or taking advantage of the situation,” said Carolina Martinez, CEO of CAMEO Network, a statewide micro-business network. So business owners should make sure they’re being “extra vigilant and are very clear in their understanding of any terms of anything they might find,” she said.

TRUMP SAYS MICROSOFT IS ONE OF THE COMPANIES EYEING TIKTOK

President Donald Trump said this week that Microsoft is among the U.S. companies looking to take control of TikTok to help the popular app avert an effective ban that could kick-in in April.

"I would say yes," Trump told reporters when asked if Microsoft was one of the companies interested in helping to bring about a new ownership of TikTok, a requirement set by Congress to keep the app functioning in the U.S.

Trump added that other companies were also interested in purchasing TikTok, but wouldn't provide a list.

Micro

"I like bidding wars because you make your best deals," Trump said as he spoke to reporters aboard Air Force One while flying back to Washington from Miami, where Republican House members were holding a conference.

Microsoft declined to comment. Representatives for TikTok did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In one of his first acts in office last week, Trump extended the deadline for TikTok to find new ownership that satisfies the government by 75 days, to April 4 from January 19.

The president has said that he's looking for the ultimate purchaser to give the U.S. a 50% stake in the company, which is owned by China-based ByteDance. But the details remain murky, and its unclear whether he's proposing control of the app by the government or another U.S. entity.

Last week, the artificial intelligence startup Perplexity AI presented a new proposal to ByteDance that would allow the U.S. government to own up to 50% of a new entity that merges Perplexity with TikTok's U.S. business, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Several other investors — including billionaire Frank McCourt and Trump's former Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin — have spoken publicly about their desire to purchase TikTok's U.S. platform. Trump has also said he's spoken to "many people" privately about the company.

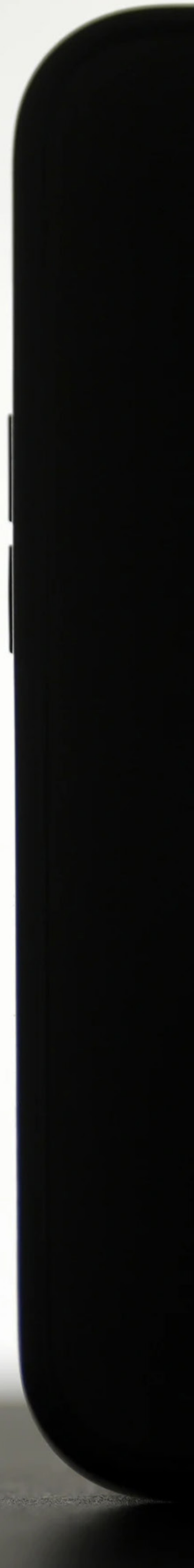
After the bipartisan law was signed by former President Joe Biden in April, ByteDance said it did not have plans to sell the platform and fought the statute in court for months. China also rebuked Washington over the divestment push, though more recently it appears to be softening its stance.

In media interviews last week, Bill Ford, the chairman of the global investing firm General Atlantic and a ByteDance board member, said the company is prepared to engage with the Trump administration and Chinese officials to find a solution that keeps TikTok available. He also floated the idea that there could be a solution short of a full divesture by ByteDance.

Lawmakers and officials in both parties have raised national security concerns about Chinese ownership and potential manipulation on the immensely popular platform, which is used by more than 170 million U.S. users.

Trump was in favor of a TikTok ban before he reversed his position last year. He credits the platform with helping him win more young voters during the recent presidential election.

Microsoft, along with Walmart, made a failed bid for TikTok during Trump's first term after Trump tried to ban the app. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella later described it as the "strangest thing I've ever worked on."



Google

Image: Leon Neal

GOOGLE PLEDGES TO CRACK DOWN ON FAKE REVIEWS AFTER UK WATCHDOG INVESTIGATION

Google pledged to crack down on fake online reviews with tougher punishments for rogue reviewers and businesses that try to profit from them, British regulators said following an investigation.

The Competition and Markets Authority said that Google has committed to “rigorous steps” to detect and remove sham reviews, so it can quickly identify and investigate businesses and reviewers trying to benefit from the phony posts.

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Google will delete all reviews written by people who repeatedly write fake or misleading reviews — either positive or negative — for U.K. businesses, the watchdog said. These reviewers will also be banned from posting new reviews, whether or not they're in the U.K.

Businesses that try to artificially boost their star ratings will also face consequences. Warning alerts will be slapped on their Google profiles, and new reviews will not be allowed. And if they repeatedly engage in fake review activity, all their reviews for the past six months or more will be deleted, the CMA said.

Google's also adding a way for consumers to quickly and easily report shady reviews, including payments or rewards offered for a positive review.

"The changes we've secured from Google ensure robust processes are in place, so people can have confidence in reviews and make the best possible choices," the watchdog's CEO Sarah Cardell said. "They also help to create a level-playing field for fair dealing firms."

Google said its "longstanding investments to combat fraudulent content help us block millions of fake reviews yearly – often before they ever get published." The company said in a brief statement that its "work with regulators around the world, including the CMA, is part of our ongoing efforts to fight fake content and bad actors."

A separate investigation into Amazon over fake reviews is ongoing, the watchdog said. It opened the probes in 2021 to examine whether the two companies broke U.K. consumer law by failing to protect shoppers. It began looking into phony reviews on some big websites amid the boom in online shopping fueled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Phony reviews have long plagued the internet. Some online travel and shopping platforms have banded together to fight fraudulent reviews. Authorities in the U.S. meanwhile have also been trying to crack down, with the Federal Trade Commission banning their sale or purchase and fining businesses and individuals who engage in the practice.

Fake reviews are typically traded on private social media groups between fake review brokers and businesses willing to pay. Sometimes, such reviews are initiated by businesses that offer customers incentives such as gift cards for positive feedback.

Image: Dado Ruvic

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